Number 7051

Former Argentine officers charged

in kidnapping case

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - A federal judge indicted seven former military officers from Argentina's 1976-

83 dictatorship on Friday as part of a deepening investigation into the disappearances of at least 200 habies

during the country's "dirty war." Judge Adolfo Bag-

nasco formally charged the junta leaders, already under arrest following previous questioning in the

case, with child kidnapping and forgery of identity

documents. A total of nine officers have been detained

in recent months as officials try to determine if a sys-

tematic plan existed to illegally adopt children born to

jailed dissidents during the "dirty war" campaign

against suspected leftists and opponents of the mili-

#### Two ethnic Albanians killed'

Volume 24

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JLM (AFP)

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PRISTINA (AFP) - Two ethnic Albanians were killed and three injured by Serb security forces in southwestern Kosovo late Thursday, Kosovo Albanian Information Centre (KIC) said Friday. The incident happened in two villages, Bela Crieva and Sokmic, south of Orahovac, KIC said, adding that numerous "loud explosions" were heard in the area. The report could not be confinned by independent sources. Meanwhile, the Kosovo Albanian Committee for Human rights reported that six ethnic Albanians were arrested Friday in Vucitm, some 25

#### Woman fined for protest against iraq bombings

kilometres north from Pristina.

LONDON (AP) --- A 55-yearold woman was fined in court Friday after she admitted spraying graffiti on Britain's war memorial to protest the nation's part in the bombing of Iraqi targets last month. Sylvia Boyes argued in court that the British government were acting illegally by bombing Iraq and that she therefore had a "lawful exeuse" for spraying paint on the Cenotaph war memorial and on the doors of the Ministry of Defence. She was arrested Dec. 16 after an organised protest and was charged with spraying under the inscription The Glorious Dead on the Cenotaph war memorial the words, 'not in

#### Ex-Pentagon lawyer convicted of spying

WASHINGTON (R) — A former Pentagon lawyer and her labour organiser husband. both onetime campus radicals, were sentenced on Friday to lengthy prison terms for spying for East Germany and other nations as part of a two-decade conspiracy. A federal judge handed down the sentence of 21 years and 10 months in prison for Theresa Squillacote. a former senior staff attorney in the office of the deputy undersecretary of defence for acquisition reform. And U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton in Alexandria, Virginia, sentenced Squillacote's husband, Kurt Stand, an international labour union representative, to 17 years and six months in

#### Freetown archbishop flees captors

estern Street to the second se ROME (R) — The Roman Catholic archbishop of Freetown and four Xaverian misuntil the same sionaries, kidnapped by Sierra Leone rebels, have escaped their captors, the Rome-based Catholic missionary news 3gency MISNA said on Friday. Archbishop Joseph Henry Ganda was abducted around Jan. 12-13 during fighting in Freetown between Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels and the West African ECO-MOG force backing President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

#### Islamic Jihad leader released

ALBUQUENCE! Propriet State G GAZA CITY (AFP) - Palestinian authorities have released a leader of the Islamic Jihad Carrier Services Services Control of the Control of group who was arrested last month for calling for the assassination of Bill Clinton during the U.S. president's historic visit to the Gaza Strip, security sources said Friday. Just days ahead of Chinton's arrival, Sheikh Abdullah Al Shami told a Spanish television station that be would be "very happy" if the U.S. president was assassinated during his visit to Gaza.

# AMMAN SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1999, SHAWWAL 6, 1419 King receives Prince Hassan

## 'Reports of King sending emissaries to Prince groundless'

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN - His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received HRH Crown Prince Hassan at his home, Bub Al Salam, informed sources said. The sources did not disclose further details of the meeting. but dismissed media reports claiming that King Hussein had sent Royal emissaries to Prince Hassan to inform him that he was officially no longer heir to the Hashemite Throne.

The SOURCES international agencies' reports of "Royal envoys" were "groundless."

Meanwhile, amid mounting speculations, officials and analysts said they expected King Hussein to publicly announce his decision concerning the succession to the Throne soon.

The Royal Court would neither confirm nor deny local and international media reports that King Hussein was to address the nation today.

Jordanians spent the weekend discussing statements by the King on Wednesday that he came back from his successful six-month chemotherapy treatment in the U.S. with "a lot of thoughts and ideas" about the country's future and the succession to the Throne.

In an interview with CNN on Wednesday, one day after his return home, the King explained that his decision in 1965 to appoint Prince Hassan Crown Prince was prompted by the fact that "there was no substitute but to find a member of the family close by to take over." At that time of regional upheaval and instability, Prince Abdullah was only three years old. "But that did not mean at all that it was the end of the story," the King told

Sources interpreted the King's reference to the constitutional amendment introduced to name his younger brother as Crown Prince as an indication that the Monarch intended to revert to the original constitutional provision according to which his eldest son inherits the Throne.

"The King's words on CNN indicated that he wants to go back to how things were before the Constitution was amended," one former official

Most political sources contacted by the Jordan Times agreed that the choice of HRH Prince Abdullah as heir to the throne would represent the smoothest and most natural course, since it would not require constitutional amendments.

Officials noted that the current text of Article 28 of the Constitution — governing the succession to the Throne would also enable Prince Abdullah in the future to appoint his younger brother HRH Prince Hamzeh as Crown Prince.

Nineteen-year-old Prince Hamzeh, currently following his futher's footsteps at the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst, in the U.K., is the King's eldest son by Majesty Queen Noor.

The original 1952 constitutional text, stipulating that the Hashemite crown "shall pass from the holder of the Throne

## King meets with Tarawneh

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and renewed his confidence in the Tarawneh government. The King commended the government's performance and accomplishments at various levels, giving his total support to the government to continue its work in the service of the people. Tarawneh highly valued the King's confidence and assured him that his team will continue to work under the King's guidance to serve the country and its people.

to his eldest son," was amended in 1965 to allow for the appointment of Prince Hassan as Crown Prince.

A line was added then stipulating that the King may select one of his brothers as heir to

Prince Abdullah was heir to the Throne from 1962-1965.

Sources said the fact that Prince Abdullah was delegated on Wednesday to welcome the visiting crown princes of Bahrain and Dubai was a further indication of the King's

Some analysts said King Hussein has been sending clear signals in recent months indicating his intention to change the succession line.

"It was a predictable development," said one source, "There have been many and

clear signals in the past months, and in the past 10 days it became evident," he added. Speculation was first triggered by the King's letter to

Prince Hamzeh last year on the occasion of his 18th birthday according to the Muslim calendar, the source noted.

More recently, politicians said, speculation was formented by the wording of a Royal

Court denial of a report that appeared in an international Arabic magazine. The report. published on Jan. 8 in Al Watan Al Arabi, claimed that

King Hussein had discussed the succession to the throne in meetings in the U.S. with American officials. The Royal Court's strong

denial, issued on Jan.17, stated: "No one has the right to speculate on what goes on inthe King's mind regarding decisions that he considers from time to time a necessity aiming to correct the path and to achieve more stability and security for all Jordanians."

The statement denied the [alleged] meetings, but almost confirmed changes to the succession line," one former minister told the Jordan Times. Former and current officials

emment change soon. "The King indicated that changes will affect both the Royal family and the government" one former minister

also said they expected a gov-

"There will certainly be a government change," said another official, "to match the sweeping changes taking place at the top of the state."



tary regime.

Two citizens celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's return during a parade held yes-

## King to meet with Omani, Egyptian leaders this week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sultan Oaboos Ben Said of Oman is expected to arrive in Amman on Monday, while Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is expected to arrive later this week to congratulate His Majesty King Hussein on his recovery and to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East.

Since his return to Jordan on Tuesday, King Hussein has received telephone calls and messages of good wishes and congratulations from leuders.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. who earlier phoned the King. sent a cable on Thursday in which he said: "We thank God Almighty for your recovery and your return to your country and your nation, who are overwhelmed with joy and who hope that you will resume your role alongside the leaders of our nation towards achieving further strength and solidarity in the face of circumstances and challenges facing

the nation." King Fahd added: "We implore God to bless you with continued health and to bless your country with continued progress and prosperity." Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul

Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister of Saudi Arabia. congratulated King Hussein in a message, saving "I am pleased to address you as a brother and leader, to congratulate myself and my brothers the leaders of the Arab and Muslim World as well as the people of Jordan over your safe return to your country completely cured and blessed

Prince Abdullah said, "I was delighted when I saw you in Washington standing up and combating illness with a strong will and with great faith in God and I was certain that I would see you returning home after overcoming the difficult circumstances in order to resume your role and your responsibilities along with the loyal rulers of the Arab and Muslim World."

King Hussein received on Friday phone calls from the leader of the Israeli Labour Party, Ehud Barak, Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Israeli Defence Minister

Yitzhak Mondechai, who congratulated him on his recovery and safe return home.

Also Thursday, the King received a message of good wishes from King Hassan of Morocco, a congratulatory telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Muharak and cables from the governor of Australia, the president of the Dominican Republic and the prime minister of Pakistan. among others.

In New York, Arab ambassadors to the U.N. expressed their good wishes to the King during their weekly meeting attended by Jordanian Ambassador Hassan Abu Nimeh, who said afterwards that the envoys voiced their congratulations over the King's recov-

The office of Jordan's mission to the U.N. received calls from the Jordanian community in the U.S. expressing their delight over the King's recovery and safe return.

Around the country, official and public celebrations continued Thursday and Friday to commemorate the King's

# Arab League FMs to discuss draft resolution on lifting Iraq sanctions Khatib to leave today for Cairo meeting

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN - The Arab League foreign ministers are expected to discuss on Sunday a draft resolution that appeals to the U.N. Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq since 1990 but also calls on Baghdad to respect U.N. resolutions and the sovereignty of Kuwait and its borders, diplomats said.

The draft resolution for the ministerial meeting was prepared and circulated recently to Arab foreign ministers," one Arab diplomat based in Cairo told the Jordan Times.

He said the draft resolution was hammered out at two meetings earlier this month in Cairo between the foreign ministers of Egypt. Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen.

Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib heads for Cairo today to attend the Sunday ministerial meeting. Jordan always supports calls for holding an Arab meeting for the benefit of the Arab Nation." a senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times on Friday.

The Sunday meeting was requested by Yemen in December to discuss the possibility of holding an Arab summit to discuss the U.S.-British air strikes against Iraq. The London-based daily

Al Hayat quoted Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid on Friday as describing the resolution as "balanced, and reflecting the feelings of Arab peoples who want a united Arab position to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf on Thursday accused the United States of asking Arab governments to soften the resolutions of the Cuiro meeting.

Agence France Presse reported Friday that Sahhaf is to present a different

draft resolution at the meeting calling for the "immediate lifting of sanctions' and an end to the no-fly zones in the north and south of the country.

Sahhaf said his country would follow closely the deliberations at the foreign ministers' meeting, and warned that if the participants adopted the U.S. line. Iraq would adopt a "new position." He did not clubo-

The Iraqi government, in a meeting Thursday chaired by President Saddam Hussein, announced that Baghdad rejected in advance any initiative which did not condemn the air strikes.

However, the Arab diplomat said there is Arab consensus that a comprehensive review of the sanctions should be conducted in order to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi peo-

"It has been eight years

since the sanctions were

imposed on Iraq, and the Arabs believe that the Iragi people are paying a heavy price," the diplomat said. But the prospects of hold-

ing an Arab summit to discuss the Iraqi situation are slim, he said, citing probable differences between the ministers on reaching a decision on such a summit. He said that although

some Arab states have come out in favour of holding the summit, "the Gulf states have refused to take part in a summit attended by Iraq. Jordan, meanwhile, said

it supported a summit but only if it had a clear agenda.

"We believe an Arab summit needs a clear agenda in order to guarantee its success," one official said. The most recent Arab summit was held in Cairo in 1996 to discuss the

peace process shortly after

Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu was elected to office.

## Mordechai set to leave Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (R) — Dovish Defence Minister Yitzhuk Mordechai, one of Israel's most popular politicians, took a preliminary step on Friday towards leaving Benyamin Netanyahu's Likud Party and running for prime minister.

Speculation mounted that Mordechai would join a new centrist party after he missed a I p.m. (1100 GMT) deadline on Friday to put his name forward with the right-wing Likud for a place on its list of parliamentary candidates in the May 17 election.

Signs of a rift with Netanyahu were even more evident when Mordechai's office said after the deadline passed that the defence chief would hold talks in Egypt on Sunday with President Hosni

Netanyahu's office said the visit had not been cleared with the prime minister, "No, the prime infusier did not know abou u." Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky fold Reuters.

In a statement, Mordechar's political adviser Meni Ben-Ham said the detence minister was stdl a member of Likud. but added. "He will meet in the coming days with political figeres - a sign he was weigh-

use his options. Mordechin, 54, has kept Israel in suspense for weeks over whether he would turn against Neianyahu, who hanched the former general's political career in 1996.

"There will be no weekend meeting with the prime minis-Ben Haim said. Mordechai did meet on Friday. however, with former army chief Annon Lipkin-Shahak and Likud defector Roni Milo. who are both centrist candi-

"Mordechai is on his way to the centrist part and not just to the centrist party but to the number one spot in this party," said Israel Radio political cor-

respondent Yaron Dekel.

He has consistently scored high in opinion polls and pleased U.S. leaders by frequently urging the Israeli govemment to make progress in land-for-security peacemaking with the Palestinians,

"Anyone who wants to go with us is welcome to do so. and anyone who does not want to join us won't. It's as simple as that. This is not personal," Netanyahu said on Thursday.

Opposition Labour Party leader Ehud Barak, whom opinion polls show running neck-and-neck Netanyahu, welcomed the possible new challenge to the incumbent prime minister.

# 'Ethnic-cleansing weapons' possible within 10 years — report

LONDON (AFP) - Advances in genetic research raise the possibility of biological weapons, available within 10 years, that would attack one ethnic group but leave others untouched. according to a report published

Thursday. Given the availability of bombmaking instructions and "recipes" on the Internet, the British Medical Association said, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of 1972 needs

"urgent" strengthening. While "genetic weapons which target a particular ethnic group are not currently a practical possibility," the report concludes "it would be complacent to assume they could never be

developed in the future."

The report "Biotechnology. weapons and humanity" by the BMA, which represents all Britain's doctors, predicted their existence within "five or 10 years" and warned of their attractiveness to terrorists.

"Scientific knowledge has been quickly exploited for weapons development in the past," said Vivienne Nathanson, of the BMA, adding she saw no reason why this trend would alter with genetics.

The report explains that genetic research into humans leads almost every day to further understanding of the differences in disparate human

Such differences were apparent in blood groups or varying resistance to disease, such as developed by certain

groups in west Africa against malana. Two key developments were highlighted by the expens. One is the Human Genome Project which aims to map the entire human genetic blue-

carry corrective DNA into nudfunctioning cells.

print by 2003. The other is gene therapy, a technology still in its infancy, which uses "vectors" such as harmless viruses to

The BMA warned that theoretically nothing could stop the development of "viral vectors or micro-organisms" (bacteria, virus, etc.) capable of tar-

ular genetic make-up while sparing their neighbours.

"In short, if there are distinguishing DNA sequences between groups, and if these can be targeted in a way that is known to produce a harmful outcome, a genetic weapon is possible,"

said the report. Far from being science fiction, it cited a report in the strategic military magazine Jane's on worries expressed by U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen in June 1997 about "certain types of pathogens that would be ethnic specific so that they could elimi-

nate certain ethnic groups." "The scientific community is very

geting an enemy group with a partic-close to being able to manufacture" such weapons, said Cohen.

There have also been sportadic reports of Israeli developing such weapons to use against Arabs and white South Africans targeting blacks in a similar fashion.

On Nov. 15. Britain's Sunday Times reported Israel was working on an "ethnic" biological weapon which will hit Arabs and not Jews by distinguishing between their genetic differ-

Quoting Israeli military sources and Western intelligence services, the report said researchers were trying to isolate distinctive "Arub" genes in order to develop a virus, transmitted

by air or water, which would target them specifically.

The programme, based in the top secret Ness Ziona germ warfare laboratory south of Tel Aviv, is complicated by the fact that Jews and Arabs are genetically close, both being of Semitic origin, the report said.

The BMA did not argue that all genetic research should stop, recognising its possibilities for saving lives and advancing medical treatment.

But the report stressed: "Getting rid of weapons once they are produced is very difficult; governments may be reluctant to give up weapons that the rest of the world finds unacceptable."

# Fahd launches low-key Saudi centenary

RIYADH (R) — King Fahd inaugurated low-key celebrations of a Saudi national centenary on Friday at a time of economic austerity for the world's largest oil power.

The king, born in 1922 and now showing visible signs of his age and infirmity, performed one of the main events launching two weeks of celebrations from the front seat of his limousine.

The car was driven to a corner of Riyadh's Justice Square where the king was handed an infra-red device to perform the unveiling of a commemorative

plaque.

The square is where convicted drug traffickers, murderers and rapists are publicly beheaded. On this day, it was crowded with princes, courtiers and soldiers. Fountains played in the bright, wintry sunshine.

The plaque records the name of the small band of desert wartions who accompanied King Fahd's late father Abdul-Aziz Ben Abdulrahman Al Faisal Al Saud. founding sovereign of Saudi Arabia, in a dawn raid on Riyadh which set the stage for the unification of much of the Arabian peninsula — then "a land of mystery and fear", as one Saudi newspaper put it.

The raid, in which the regional governor and his men were killed, was exactly 100 years ago according to the lunar Hijri calendar observed in Saudi Arabia. The date corresponds to Jan. 15, 1902.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was proclaimed in 1932 after three decades of military conquests ended centuries ended internecine warfare between feuding bedouin tribes who were united under the House of Saud's Islamic banner "There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is His messenger."
"Any keen observer of the

warns any shelter for Ocalan will history of the Saudi House will have to realise that this family be 'open act emerges from the depths of its people." King Fahd said in a of hostility' speech read for him by one of his younger brothers Prince Salman, Riyadh regional gov-

Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey on Friday warned its neighbors that if any of them granted refuge to Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. Ankara would consider it an "open act of hostility" and act accordingly.

We trust that no country will shelter the terrorist leader." Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told reporters after meeting with Foreign Minister Ismail Cem. 'But especially our neighbors should know that we will consider it an act of open hostility to do so, and that we will act accordingly." "Nothing is certain for the moment," Ecevit said in answer to questions about Ocalan's whereabouts. There are only various rumours.

The Russian authorities have assured us that they have ascertained that he is not in Russia," Ecevit added. "So even if he was there earlier, he has left, but it is unclear which country he went to," he said. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov earlier Friday announced that Ocalan. the leader of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), is not in Russia. "We can now say officially: Ocalan is not in Russia," Ivanov said.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the main successor to the KGB, said Ocalan was "not currently" on Russian territory. Ocalan is wanted in Turkey on terrorism and murder charges linked to the PKK's 14-year armed campaign for an independent homeland in the southeast of the country.

He arrived in Italy on Nov. 12 from Russia, where he had been hiding after Syria expelled him under Turkish pressure in October. Since leaving Rome last Saturday, he has so far managed to his whereabouts unknown.



Iraqi citizens attend an auction, Friday in Baghdad, where life returned to normal one month after U.S.-British strikes

# Only Iraqi royalists give U.S. plan to aid opposition public welcome

DUBAI (AFP) — Washington won the backing of Iraqi royalists Thursday for its not-sosecret plan to oust President Saddam Hussein but had yet to win the support of any of the main opposition factions.

The small Movement for a Constitutional Monarchy, which wants to restore the royal family overthrown in 1958, said it welcomed the \$97 million in congressional aid which President Bill Clinton offered to seven named opposition groups

"The Movement for a Constitutional Monarchy welcomes the support of the United States and the American people and their decision to d by the Iragi people and put an end to the suffering since Saddam came to power, a party statement said.

"We welcome any moral or political support which is given without preconditions and which might help our people... to have done with the dictatorial regime without recourse to direct foreign military intervention," it said.

The royalists, headed by Ali Ben Hussein, a descendant of the Hashemite family which used to rule Iraq, were one of seven Iraqi opposition factions which Clinton named as eligible for U.S. support and is the

first to openly welcome it. The main Shiite Muslim opposition group, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). Thursday snubbed the U.S. offer.

"We will not accept U.S. aid for a change in Iraq," its leader, Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim, told the Londonbased Arabic daily Al Hayat.

The three Kurdish groups which between them control most of northern Iraq — the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the smaller Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan (IMIK) were all lukewarm in their

reaction. "The leadership of the PUK" is studying the question. But, in principle, we are not in favour of aid with strings attached," said Fuad Maassum, a London-based member of the PUK leadership.

The KDP said it had not been officially informed of the U.S. decision. Washington had "not consulted" the KDP in advance, said its London representative, Dilshad Miran.

The two other groups named by the U.S. president - the London-based opposition umbrella group, the Iraqi National Congress, and the Amman-based and pro-Westem Iraqi National Accord have yet to give any public

Washington appointed the current number two at its embassy in Ankara, Frank Ricciardone, Thursday as Special Representative for Transition in Iraq to coordinate its support for the opposition.

# Iraq boosts troops to quell unrest in south

LONDON (R) - Iraq has built up its armed forces in the south over the past month to quell internal opposition and intimidate neighbouring Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, an opposition group said on Friday.

Hamid Al Bayati, of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Opposition in Iraq (SCIRI), said the build-up began in mid-December and included surface-to-air and surface-to-surface

"It's difficult to know what he is going to do because he is unpredictable." Bayati, the group's London spokesman, told Reuters in reference to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"These troops have been used to suppress any kind of popular uprising. But we cannot rule out that some of these forces might be used against neighbouring countries following the atest Iraqi statements." Bayati was commenting on a BBC report that Baehdad was moving troops and tanks into southem Iraq towards the border with Kuwait and the southern nofly zone imposed by the West.

A BBC reporter said that he had seen a stream of armour and guns moving down the road towards the southern city of Basra near Kuwait, which Iraq occupied in 1990-91.

Iraq has accused Kuwait of treachery for allowing its territory to be used as launch pads for some of the Western air strikes made against Baghdad in December.

Iraq also this month slammed the small oil-producing state for receiving SCIRI leader Mohammad Bager Al Hakim, saying he was in the country to plan sabotage against Baghdad. Bayan, whose organisation is seen by Western diplomats in

the Gulf as an influential opposition group in the Shiite south of Iraq, said the movements filmed by the BBC had been going on since the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The reinforcements had entered southern marshes that have been a hotbed of opposition to Baghdad, he said.

Last month Bayati reported Iraqi security reinforcements in the south had carried out hundreds of summary executions and detentions in the region - a charge subsequently echoed by the U.S. State Department and denied by Baghdad.

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DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

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....Geneva, Madrid (RI)

.Frankfurt (RI)

Rome (RJ)

# Libyans accused in French airliner bombing to be tried

PARIS (AFP) — Six alleged Libyan secret agents accused in the 1989 bombing of a French airliner in which 170 people died will be tried in absentia on March 8, judicial officials

said Thursday. The six, accused of murder or complicity in murder "in connection with a terrorist enterprise," will be tried by a special court of seven magistrates, headed by Judge Yves Jacob, the sources said. The trial is expected to last three days.

The airliner, a DC-10 operated by the company UTA, was on a flight Brazzaville, Congo. and Paris on Sept. 19, 1989 when it blew up over Niger, killing all 170 passengers and crew. The debris was found scattered across a huge swathe of the

Under French lawyers cannot argue in court on behalf of persons tried in absentia. In addition, courts only have the right to acquit or apply maximum penalties to an absent defendant. And if that person is eventually arrested, he or she has to stand trial again.

The six include Abdullah Senoussi, Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Oadhafi's brother-in-law, whom French counter-espionage consider to be the former number two in Libyan intelligence and the man behind the attack.

The others are Abdullah Alazragh, who was a diplomat in Brazzaville in 1989, Ibrahim Naeli, Musbah Arbas, Abdul Salam Hammouda, considered Senoussi's right-hand man, and

Four international arrest warrants were issued by France in 1991, when examining magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere officially pointed the finger at Libya. He focused his inquiry on networks of Islamists close to Iran, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Svria, Shiite activist groups

"It is not alien or a passing

phenomenon on this land. No

one can ever, by the grace and

help of God, pluck a hair of this

body. The strength of the Saudi

House is due to the fact that it

forms one of the indivisible

part of its people and will

King Fahd gave thanks to

God for His "overt and covert

bounties that He had bestowed

upon this country and its peo-

ple" and said the greatest of all

bounties was Islam, founded

within the boundaries of what

is now the modern Saudi state

by Prophet Mohammad 14

remain so forever."

and Bernard Yanga, a pro-Libyan Congolese dissi-The Libyan government, in 1996, said it had seized explosives identical to those used in the bombing, purportedly from anti-Qadhafi

> activists. United Nations The passed two resolutions in 1992, condemning the UTA bombing as well as the attack on a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988 that killed

## Labour Party avoids one top-level defection

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's opposition Labour Party has avoided the defection of another senior member. Haim Ramon, by adopting a primary system that should ensure him a top slot on the party's ticket for parliamentary elections in May, Labour officials said Friday.

Ramon, a former head of the powerful Histadrut trade union federation and one of the most respected political strategists in

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Labour, had threatened to quit the party over a recent reform to its primary procedures he said would deny him a safe spot on the parliamentary slate.

At the urging of party chairman Ehud Barak, who defeated Ramon in a party leadership race in 1997, the Labour central committee adopted a new primary system during a meeting Thursday night, officials

The new system permits

the 160,000 Labour members to rank by preference their choices for the Labour slate of candidates for parliament in the May 17 elec-

tions. Ramon, an outspoken politician with many enemies inside the party, had feared that a primary election with no ranking of nominations would leave him in an embarrassingly low spot on the ticket. The primary election is

due to be held on Feb. 15.

After the central committee decision, Ramon announced that he would remain in Labour and run for a seat in parliament.

Two other senior Labour figures have already quit the party and joined a new centrist formation created by former army chief Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

The pair, Hagai Ramon and Nissim Zvili, both accused Barak of running Israel's main opposition party like a dictator.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

16:10 Animaniaes
16:30The Adventures of the
Bush Patrol
17:00Drama - Neighbours
17:30(Ch.2 links with Ch.1)
18:15Omar Ben Abdul Aziz
19:00New in French
19:15French programme
19:30News Headlines
19:35 Cornedy - Murghy Brown
20:00The Health Show
20:30Drama - The Pretender
21:15(Rania's Show)
22:00News in English
22:30Feature Film - The
Earnest Story
00:00End of T.X.
1

### PRAYER TIMES

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05:10	Fai
06:30	Faj (Sunrise) Duh Dhul 'Ast Maghre
11:47	Dhul
14:20,	
17:05	Maghre
18:25	'lsb
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### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 5920740 Assemblies of God Church Tel.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590 Terra Sancta Church Tel. Church Anglican 4624853/4624811.

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751. Amman International Church Tel. 5865897 German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932 St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440 Greek Orthodox Church Tel.

4646138 Church of Presentation, Sweifieh Tel. 5920146 The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190 Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679 The Baptist Church Tel.

4628052 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331 The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology Relative cold weather conditions will prevail during the in temperatures and partly cloudy skies. Winds northwesterly moderate. In Agaba it will be partly cloudy, cold at night, temperatures are rising slightly. Winds northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman	04
Aqaba	08
Deserts	04
Jordan Valley	

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10 Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Aminan 55 per cent, Agaba 40 per cent.

Following are the tempreatures expected today in the following

4.7	07/1
Ajloun	
Jerash	V//1.
Um Qays	03/13
Madaba	
Petra	
Dead Sea	12/2

#### TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Awni Hawamdeh \_\_\_ 5332350 Dr. Tawfiq Qub'sin ......4623029 Dr. Ghalib Zawaideh \_\_\_\_4126011 coming 3 days with slight rise

Dr. Khaldoun.Asfour ......5332600 AMMAN: Firas Pharmacy ......5661912 Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730 Mayadah Pharmacy ...5537004 Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

Dr. Ali Shuqairi (02)7100069 Fou'ad Pharmacy .(02)275360

ZARQA:

## **EMERGENCIES**

Dr. Akram Haddad (09)985550

Food Control Centre....4637111 Civil Defence Department \_5661111 Civil Defence Immediate Res-..4630341 Civil Defence Emergency.....199 Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777 Blood Bank.. ..4775121 Highway Police.. \_5343402 Traffic Police. ..4896390 Public Security Dept.... 4630321 Hotel Complaints.... ....5605800 Price Complaints......5661176 Water & Sewerage Complaints \_\_4897467 Amman Municipality Com-..787111 plaints ... Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..121 Overseas Calls ..0132 Central Amman Telephone ...4623101 Abdali Tel. Repairs.....5661101 JordanTelevision .......4773111 Radio Jordan ... Water Authority. ...5680100 J. Electricity Authority .5815615 Electric Power Co.... ....4636381 RJ Flight Information..44-53200

### HOSPITALS

Queen Alia Intl. Airport ...44-53200

Palestine Pharmacy..(09)983562 AMMAN: The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ......5921199 The Islamic, Abdli ......5666131/7 Hussein Medical Centre...5856856 ...4630195 Khalidi Maternity..... ...4644281*/*6 Akileh Maternity.......4642441/2 Jabal Arnman Maternity...4642362 Malhas. J. Amman. .....4636140 Palestine, Shmeisani .....5607071 ....5607431 Shmeisani Hospital .... Jordan Hospital ..... ..5607550 \_5353444 University Hospital ... Al-Muasher Hospital 566722719 Al-Ahli, Abdali ..........5664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3 Al-Bashir\_ *.4775*111*12*6 Army, Marka ... ...4891611/15 Oueen Alia Hospital 5157100 Amal Hospital . ...5**6**07155 Al Amal Cancer Centre ..5353000

ZARQA: Hospital .(09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital Ibn Sina Hospital .... (09)986731 Al Hikma Modern Hospital

Princess Hospital Basma ..(02)275555 Roman Catholic Hospital .(02)272275 Nafees Hospital ...(02) 7101372, (02) 7103101 Sisters Rosary Hospital ..(02) 7102831, (02) Speciality Hospital ....(02) 7103100

AOABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)2014111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 523250. Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

## **ARRIVALS**

09:55

10:05

10:15

10:35.

17:40

19:40

19:40

21:15

00:35

06:35

23:35

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Damascus (RJ) 09:30 ..New Delhi (RJ) 11:15 \_Karachi, Dubai (RJ) .Beirut (RJ) 12:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ) ....Colombo (RJ) 12:15 15:00 .. New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 16:20 ...Cairo (RJ) 16:00 London, Berlin (RJ) 20:00 .... ...Rome (RJ) 20:15 .Frankfurt (RJ) 20:30 ... ..Riyadh (add) (RJ) 21:00 ....Abu Dhabi. Dubai (RJ) Lamaça (RJ) .Paris (RJ) 21:00 ......Dhahran (add) (RJ) ...Bangkok, Doha (RJ) 21:20 \_\_\_\_Lamaca (RJ)

Other Flights 13:05 .Vienna (OS) ...Riyadh (SV) 13:20 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF) ..Rome (AZ) .....Dubai, Damascus (EK) 18:00 18:40 Beirut (ME) 19:05 ...Paris (AF) 19:15 ..Frankfurt (LH) 21:35 ...Cairo (MS) 22:55 London, Damascus (BA)

...Belgrade (JU) Royal Wings (RW) 09:30 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) 10:10 Aqaba (arriving at Marks Airport) 16:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka

..Amsterdam (KL)

14:15 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) .Riyadh (SV) 15:50 .Vienna (OS) Dubai (EK) 20:00 Benut (ME) 22:35 ..Cairo (MS) 00:35 - Amsterdam (KL) 02:10 .. \_ Belgrade (JU) Royal Wings (RW)

06:15 Damascus, London (BA)

Other Flights

07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW) 08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport)(RW) 20:30 Agaba (from QAIA) (RW)

# Dams collect 2.4 mcm of rain, but still at less than half of capacity



The King Talal Dam (file photo)

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — The government Friday said the past week of rainfall has increased the amount of water in the dams' reservoirs by 2.4 million cubic metres (mcm), but has not managed to top up the Kingdom's dams which still hold only half their normal annual volume at this time of year.

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Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Dureid Mahasnch said the major increase was in the King Talal Dam, which received 1.4 mcm, while the other four main dams collectively received 1 mcm.

Before last week's rainfall, the drop in water levels in the nation's dams was reported as follows: the King Talal Dam has dropped from 72 mcm to 32 mcm, Ziglab Dam from 3.5 mem to 1.2 mem and Wadi mcm. The Wadi Sha'eb and Kafrain dams as well as the

desett dams are nearly empty. Mahasneh told the Jordan Times that the flow of the Yarmouk River's water has increased from 3.6 cubic metres per second to 5.6, and thus, the additional water should be chanelled to Lake Tiberias where it will be stored and reclaimed next summer. The Yarmouk provides the

Kingdom with 135 mcm a year, while Tiberias supplies 60-80 mcm annually.

The secretary general added that if the winter continues to receive such low amounts of rainfall, the authority will go ahead with a scheme designed to cope with the drought, offically announced by the Cabi-

5536098), until Jan. 25.

(Tel. 5526932), until Feb. 1.

What'

net last Saturday.

The government said it would reduce the amount of water pumped to the Southern Ghor region for agricultural use by 50 per cent, to the Northern Ghor by 20 per cent and to the central Ghor by 10 per cent. Currently, the volume of 13,000 of the 15,000 tonnes of

Furthermore, the Ministries

of Water and Irrigation and

Agriculture will provide water

for livestock from desert wells

while the Ministry of Water and

Irrigation will continue to

The ministry's plan will give

priority to drinking water,

increasing the amount of water

pumped to Amman by 10 mcm

from the Yarmouk River and

Lake Tiberias. The Amman

governorate receives around 90

mem a year, according to an

The Yarmouk's water will be

stored in Al Karameh Dam,

which has a 19 mem capacity,

to meet Amman's needs,

Jordan relies mainly on rain-

cultural and industrial needs,

which is tapped from surface

water sources, such as rivers,

and renewable groundwater

sources. Rainfall, which has

dipped to just two per cent of

the seasonal average in Decem-

ber and January, accounts for

about 60 per cent of Jordan's

The drought currently affect-

ing Jordan is the worst since the

1950s, according to the Meteo-

The department yesterday

said this week's weather is

expected to be relatively cold

and partly cloudy with a chance

of scattered rain, especially in

the northern parts of the King-

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rological Department.

water supply.

ing

according to the scheme.

official report.

ration water supplies.

bran required.

water used to sustain the country's agricultural industry are estimated at around 650 mcm. The Water Authority said it is currently studying "difficult"

regulations to ration water supplies for bananas and citrus fruits, while summer crops such as mallow, eggplant and com may be prohibited. Agriculture Meihem Khreishah said most

of last week's rainfall was absorbed by the soil, and, as a result, the water amounts did not fill the dams. Khreishah added that the

lands, which might not be available next year.

Last week, the minister said the government will set up a fund to ensure JD12 million in interest-free loans to livestock breeders in order to help them buy barley and grain at reduced

He added that the government will also allocate JD500,000 for livestock medicines and that grazing reserves will be open to the public.

These measures are meant to help breeders of over three million heads of livestock in Jordan to provide feed for their

Jordan annually produces only 30,000 tonnes of the 500,000 tonnes of barley required to feed cattle and

EXHIBITIONS

Syrian, Lebanese, and Sudanese artists at Hammourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel.

Exhibition of ceramics, sculpture, and abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian, Iraqi,

"The Warm Winter" - works by several artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Uthaina

The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat Al

"Al Zaroub" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

On His Majesty King Hussein's return:

# 'I'm in awe of this human being' — Princess Aisha



Hind-Lara Mango

AMMAN — The thunderous enthusiasm with which His Majesty King Hussein was received on his return from the United States closed the door on a sad and worrying chapter in Jordan's history, but through six dark months, members of the Royal family rediscovered the profound impact the Monarch has had on their own lives as well as those of all Jordanians.

King Hussein, viewed as a pillar of stability throughout his 46 years of rule in a region fraught with regional termoil, is the longest-ruling monarch in the world, King Hussein. At home, he is looked upon as a patriarch whose return was received as a father coming back home to head his family once again.

"It's almost difficult to describe the many emotions 1 feel at a time like this," said Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein about her father's return to the

futher. mostly, I'm in awe of this human being who brings together

Kingdom.
"I feel incred-

ibly lucky to

have him as a

unites Jordanians. Palestinians, Muslims and Christians in their love for him," Princess Aisha told the Jordan Times recent interview.

King Hussein left the Kingdom on July 14, 1998, for Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota

where he was diagnosed and treated for non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

King Hussein underwent six rounds of chemotherapy treatment for his lymphatic cancer. He was absent for half a year; the longest he has ever been away from the country.

The King's absence generated a general atmosphere of unease and worry among the popula-tion of 4.2 million, but last Tuesday, he returned to a rapturous welcome from Jordanians and the Royal family, who describe the last six months as some of the most trying in their

"I feel as if the general feelings of depression and worry have been lifted and that we are all working together to welcome our King home with love, respect, and great affection," the Princess said.

Princess Aisha, a lieutenant colonel in the Armed Forces and head of the Directorate of Women's Affairs at the Jordanian Armed Forces, described the last six months as extremely challenging for herself and the Royal family.

Her Majesty Queen Noor was quoted recently as saying that the King's struggle with cancer had been the most daunting personal challenge in their 20year marriage.

Despite all the difficulties and struggle, Princess Aisha believes there was a bright side to all the difficulty and strug-

We were able to spend so much time with him at the Mayo Clinic, to help and to support him for a change," she says. "Usually, he is always been the one to help and support us throughout our lives and careers.

Princess Aisha, third eldest daughter to King Hussein, said her sisters and herself had commuted between Jordan and the United States on a monthly basis to stay in close contact with their father.

"My sisters and I spent one month here with our children then one month with our father. Our children were very, very supportive. I'm grateful to them and to their support of each other and their cousins," the Princess said.

His Majesty is father to 11 children and grandfather to 13 grandchildren. According to princess Aisha.

the "grandchildren have been in constant contact with their

"Our children have been sending him gifts and cards trying to let him see what's been happening in their lives while he was away," says the mother of two, adding that the grandchildren had prepared "something special for the King's return.

Princess Aisha feels this experience has changed her

"It was difficult to explain to the children what cancer was and how it could affect a family," she explained.

"I have so much respect for my father for having fought his way through this experience and for everyone who has gone through an experience like this," the Princess said.

Princess Aisha believes the strength exhibited by her father in his fight against cancer stem from love and support.

"The incredible sense of love and support from all Jordanians and people around the world gave him the courage and the strength to fight," she said.

The Princess believes that another source of determination stemmed from the King's own belief that "[he] still has a lot to do and his mission has not been completed."

"His faith in God has always kept him going throughout his career and his life, and that is the same thing that brought him through this experience as well," she said.

International leaders have hailed King Hussein's courage and transparent approach to the discase.

American President Bill Clinton said the King's influence in the October Wye River negotiations was crucial to the agreement that finally emerged.

During the course of his treatment King Hussein was asked by Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to attend the Wye River Plantation negotiations.

According to Mayo Clinic officials, there are currently no traces of the cancer left in the Monarch's body. But like any cancer survivor, the King's health will continue to be monitored. He is expected to go back in March for a regular check-up.

### Canadian minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) - Canadian Minister of Industry John Manley is scheduled to visit Jordan on January 22-24 as part of a regional tour that includes Israel and the West Bank. In Jordan, Manley will meet his counterpart Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Mohammad Saleh Hourani, Minister of Public Works, Housing and Transportation Naser Lawzi, Minister of Water, Energy and Mineral Resources Hani Mulki and Minister of Post and Telecommunications Suleiman Hafez. This will be Manley's first visit to Jordan, during which he will be briefed on a full range of economic activities and will explore avenues to strengthen Canadian-Jordanian cooperation.

### Schools reopen today

AMMAN (J.T.) - About one million students and 60,000 teachers will head for 4,446 schools throughout the Kingdom today, according to Al Ra'i daily

## New mosques open in Madaba

MADABA (J.T.) — Three mosques were opened on Friday to worshippers at a cost of JD120,000. Director General of Madaba Awqaf Suleiman Shihan said that the three mosques are Aisha Um Al Mumin Mosque in Al Faisaliyeh at a cost of JD60.000, Al Sahaba Mosque in Eastern Madaba at a cost of JD40.000 and Jaafar Ben Abi Taleb Mosque in Natafa area at a cost of JD20,000.

## Labour union to discuss social security draft law at upcoming meeting

world.

By Odeh Odeh

AMMAN — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) is expected to start final preparations today to convene a meeting of the 102-member Central Council during the federation's general conference at the end of February

The FJLU president Mazen Ma'aita said the two meetings should be held soon in accordance with the federation's statute.

The Central Council last June elected Ma'aita to his post and Fathallah Imrani as his deputy, in addition to a 16-member executive board. According to IFLU by-laws, the general conference should convene within no more than four months of the elections to endorse the results.

According to Ma'aita, the meeting's agenda will also include discussions on the growing level of national unemployment, which he said now hovers around 16 per cent among labourers, one of the highest rates in the

While the Ministry of Labour estimates unemployment in Jordan at 14 per cent of the total workforce,

International Monetary Fund puts the figure at 18 per cent. Ma'aita noted. Independent estimates place it even higher.

He said another agenda expected to consume a great deal of the discussions is the federation's demand for a modern social security law. A new draft social security law published recently in the Arabic press drew sharp criticism from labour union heads who blasted the federation's four representatives on the Social Security Corporation's (SSC) board of directors for failing to

present the federation's views in the draft. The unions take particularly exception to the SSC's system of calculating workers' pensions.

Ma'aita along with a number of unions heads and former federation president Khaled Shreim believe the system of calculation should be changed to secure higher pension for the workers.

They are also demanding that the law set a minimum wage level for labourers, noting that Article 502 of the 1996 Labour Law provides for such a step to help overcome unemployment and discourage employment of foreign labour.



Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2), until Jan. 28.





WELCOME WAGON: Celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's return continued throughout last week. Thursday, the Amman Municipality organised a parade of municipality workers and private sector businesses (first two frames, photos by Petra) while yesterday, Palestinians in the Baqaa Refugee camp near Amman danced and sang (last frame, Reuters photo)

# Milosevic backs down, allows U.S. envoy to stay

NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia remain an option even though Belgrade has reversed its order to expel the American head of Kosovo's international monitors, a senior diolomat said Friday.

The NATO activation order is still there to threaten, and I think President (Slobodan) Milosevic understands that very well," said Knut Volleback, Norway's foreign minister and head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which runs the monitoring

"I hope we can start a political process so we can avoid any kind of airstrike," he told reporters before departing for Pristina. Kosovo's capital.

Faced with a threat of NATO military action, the Yugoslav government late Friday reversed its decision to expel chief monitor William Walker.

The move came hours after U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright warned that the entire 750-person monitoring team would be pulled out of Kosovo unless Milosevic allows Walker to

A removal of the monitors probably would spell the end of the tottering ceasefire between Milosevic's forces and ethnic Albanian separatists and pave the way for NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia.

The decision sets aside the standoff over Walker but by no means signals an end to the crisis in Kosovo, an ethnic-Albanian majority province in Serbia, the republic

Serb sources in Kosovo reported Friday that five Serb civilians in Nevoljani, some 30 kilometres northwest of Pristina, were kidnapped overnight by rebel Kosovo Liberation Army.

There were no details.

Up to 2,000 people have been killed in fighting during the past year in Kosovo. Ethnic Albanians make up 90 per cent of the province's 2 million people, and most want indepen-

In the past week, NATO planes have gone on alert for possible strikes against Yugoslavia, following the discovery of 45 bodies of ethnic Albanian massacre victims. Yugoslav forces have continued an offensive in the province and prevented the U.N. war crimes tribunal from investigating the massacre in Racak.

In Washington, State

Department spokesman James Rubin said suspension of the expulsion order was not enough "to resolve the problems that President Milosevic has created." He said the United States and NATO still insist that the monitors be allowed to operate independently, that Yugoslavia comply with Yugoslav army withdrawals called for in an October peace agreement and permit an investigation by the U.N. war crimes court of the

Racak massacre. Volleback spoke of "some movement" in getting the Yugoslavs to allow the Hague tribunal to investigate the massacre, which led to the latest crisis. Volleback said he had spoken to the chief prosecutor

meeting with Milosevic, but refused to elaborate.

He called for intense international diplomatic activity over Kosovo, saying a meeting of foreign ministers of the so-called Contact Group of countries involved in the Kosovo crisis might be held soon. A lower-level meeting was being held in London Friday

Volleback and U.S. envoy Christopher Hill, who met Milosevic for several hours Thursday, both described the talks as "rather difficult."

U.S. spokesman James Pardew told The Associated Press that after more than four hours of talks, Milosevic remained "inflexible on all key compliance issues and continues to deny Serbian involvement in the Racak massacre."

Walker had been ordered to leave Yugoslavia by Thursday after he accused Serb police of carrying out the Racak killings. As talks went on in Belgrade, Walker defied the order and remained holed up in his office in Pristina.

In her comments in Washington, Albright demanded that Milosevic back down "by complying with U.N. resolutions, reducing the Serb security presence, cooperating with the War Crimes Tribunal and permitting the verification mission, including Ambassador Walker, to operate unhindered."

Five Finnish forensic experts unconnected to the tribunal have been allowed to examine bodies. They began work Thursday at Louise Arbour since his Pristina's morgue.



Author Salman Rushdie (right) is kissed by the French Ancien Ministre Monsieur Jack Lang. The French minister presented Rushdie with the prestigious French literary award the Insignes de Commandeur des Arts et Lettres in recognition of his work as an author (Reuters photo)

# Foreigners flee Indonesian spice islands

JAKARTA (R) — Terrified foreigners fled Indonesia's spice islands Friday after Muslim-Christian fighting killed at least 43 people and highlighted religious tensions threatening to tear the

nation apart.
The 40 mostly American and British Bible translators flew into the northern Australian city of Darwin, ing the violence on the island of Ambon, 2,300 km east of Jakarta, had made it too dangerous to stay.

"There was rioting, there was burning, there was loot-

People died," one told Australian Broadcasting Corp television.

"We decided it was best to get out... while we still could." In Jakarta. President B.J. Habibie pleaded for

"It is very important to keep unity in this reform era," he told reporters. "We must not fall into the trap of rumours that could pit one race, religion and ethnic group against another.

"God willing, this incident could serve as a lesson to increase our awareness, not our prejudice." Armed chief General forces Wiranto and police chief Lieutenant-General

flew Roesmanhadi Ambon to meet local leaders and bring food supplies for 3,000 residents still sheltering in police and military compounds.

Police say 43 people died and dozens were seriously wounded over the past week in the bloodiest violence since May riots in Jakarta killed almost 1,200 people and helped force autocratic President Suharto from

Several mosques and churches and almost 100 homes were torched in Ambon and neighbouring islands in the Moluccas after fighting began when a drunken man tried to extort money from a bus driver.

Television reports said the flag of the separatist Republic of South Moluccas was raised in the rioting. Police denied this.

The mainly Christian city of Ambon was quiet Friday. A curfew is in place and provincial military chief Major-General Amir Sembiring appealed to religious leaders to maintain

Muslims held Friday prayers in mosques under tight security.

The situation here is like after a war," Reverend Frans Luthermas told Reuters by telephone from Ambon. "Ambon is very tense and... you can see people brandishing spears and daggers." Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim nation, but there are millions of Christians, Hindus and Buddhists.

Ethnic and religious tensions suppressed during Suharto's harsh 32-year rule have bubbled to the surface as the country grapples with political and economic turmoil and the military and police struggle to maintain

Despite sometimes violent protests seeking political reform and the economic meltdown that has thrown millions into poverty, some analysts and commentators say religious friction is the greatest threat confronting Indonesia.

arose as a consequence of so many competing claims after the downfall of the Suharto regime, religious strife may be said to constitute one of the gravest dangers to the cohesion of the Indonesian state." Friday's English-language Indonesian Observer said in an editorial.

"The tragedy of Ambou may well further the spread and penetration of the disintegration process." Catholic sociologist Father Franz Magnis Suseno told Reuters the image of religious harmony during Suharto's rule was a sham.

"The situation is very worrying — if it can happen in the Moluccas, is could hapanywhere. Abdurraham Wahid, who leads Indonesia's largest Muslim group, said people had lost respect for the military and Habibie's eightmonth-old government.

"What starts as an insignificant misunderstanding can flare into bloody clashes. The situation is quite acute because people have become so easily agitated," he said.

Concerns over the violence in Ambon and sporadic clashes around the country sent shivers through the foreign exchange market Friday, sending the rupiah tumbling towards 9,000 to the dollar compared with 8.600/8.700 late Thursday.

The stock market is closed until Monday. The official Antara news agency also said Friday a youth died when small-scale rioting hit two central Java towns Wednesday and

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### EU mulis visa ban on Belgrade, Serb governments

BRUSSELS (AFP) — European Union governments are considering banning all members of the governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and Serbia from their territories in a bid to step up the pressure on Belgrade to end the crisis in Kosovo, diplomats said. A decision whether or not to go ahead will be made by the bloc's foreign ministers at talks here Monday, "depending on developments between now and then," a senior EU official said Friday. Under an existing sanctions package, the EU has already imposed a visa ban on Yugoslav officials directly involved in the repression in Kosovo. The EU has also frozen FRY and Serbian government assets, banned new investment in Serbia and refused landing rights to the Yugoslav state airline JAT.

#### France to send aircraft carrier to Yugoslav shores

PARIS (R) — The French aircraft carrier Foch will leave for the Adriatic Monday to stand by for possible action in the Kosovo crisis, a military spokesman said Friday. The Foch will leave from the Mediterranean port of Toulon and take 48 hours to reach its station. It will carry 14 Super-Etandard fighter-bombers and four Etandard photo-reconnaissance planes as well as helicopters, the spokesman told Reuters. The French airforce will meanwhile send eight Mirage 2000 C interceptors and four Mirage 2000 D ground attack planes to the area. The French air force already has five Jaguar strike planes and a C-160 electronics counter-measures aircraft based at Istrana, a NATO base near Italy's Adriatic coast. Defence Minister Alain Richard said Thursday France would have around 40 fighter planes stationed in Italy by the end of next week ready for strikes against Yugoslav targets. We will share our part of the responsibility at the heart of Europe and the Alliance." he told French radio. NATO has increased the pressure on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic over the past two days by sending naval forces to the Adriatic, while its planes are on 48-hour standby for possible strikes.

#### S. Korea says N. Korean ex-army captain seeks asylum

SEOUL (R) - South Korea said a former North Korean army captain who defected last year surved in Seoul on Friday seeking political asylum. The 29-year-old man defected from North Korea last September, five months after being discharged from the army, the National Intelligence Service said in a statement Friday. It said the man, identified by a pseudonym, Jong Hyon-Su, had been hiding in an unspecified third country. It gave no further information. Seoul also said it had recovered the body of a man believed to be one of the spies aboard a North Korean infiltration vessel sunk last month. A spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff said the body was found tied to the vessel by an ankle. The navy Tuesday found the wreckage of the semi-submersible craft lying on the seabed off the south coast. The vessel sank on Dec. 18 after a pre-dawn firefight about 100 km south of Koje Island and 460 km from the border separating the two Koreas. North Korea has denied it had anything to do with the craft and claimed the incident was fabricated by South Korea to escalate tensions on the peninsula. The two Koreas, divided immedisula in 1945, remain technically at war since their 1950-53 conflict ended with a ceasefire but not in a peace agree-

#### Grenade attack in Macau kills one, injures two

MACAU (R) - A grenade attack killed a suspected Macau gangster Friday and injured two passers-by, police in the Portuguese-ruled territory said. A man hurled the grenade at the 43-year-old man, believed to be a member of a gang from the Chinese province of Fujian, near Macau's city museum. He died in hospital. An elderly couple were wounded, police said. They were in satisfactory condition. The motive for the attack was most likely a conflict between rival Fujian gangs in Macau. About a quarter of Macau's 430,000 residents are immigrants from Fujian. Macau, a gambling centre at the mouth of Pearl River estuary, has been rocked in recent years by a wave of firebombings, arson attacks, drive-by shootings and other violent crimes attributed mostly to organised-crime triads. Macau's growing violence has been a growing source of concern to China, which resumes control over the territory in December. Last September, China said it would station People's Liberation Army troops in Macau after the handover, a decision that was widely viewed as a sign that Beijing would not tolerate organised crime. Following the handover, Macau will operate as a Special Administrative Region of China, with a status similar to that of the neighbouring former British colony of Hong Kong.

#### 71-year-old Hungarian survives month in pantry

BUDAPEST (AFP) - A 71-year-old Hungarian woman was rescued safe and sound after spending a month locked in her pantry, surviving on boiled fruit and tomato juice. officials said Friday. The woman, who lives alone, accidentally trapped herself on December 22 after the doorlatch came off and remained in her hand, firefighter Major Lajos Toeroek said. Firefighters released her by cutting the window bars open Wednesday, after neighbours in a Budanest working-class district heard her cries. She was doing "fine" despite her ordeal, firefighters said.

#### Giraffe-martyr teaches Chinese to love and respect animals

BEUING (AFP) - A life-size replica of Shanghai-Yokohama, a giraffe killed by tourist litter, is being used to teach Chinese to "love animals and respect nature," official media said Friday. The giraffe, born in Yokohama, Japan before being sent as "an envoy of friendship" to the Shanghai Zoo in 1980, died in 1993 after consuming nonperishable waste discarded by visitors, the Xinhua news agency said. It was reported that Shanghai-Yokoharna was found hitting her head against her shed wall just prior to her death. An autopsy found two large bundles of plastic bags filling her stomach. Concerned citizens donated money to build the "Pavilion of Love" where Shanghai-Yokohama's spirit resides, drawing mourning crowds and teaching a new generation of Chinese to respect all forms of life. The pavilion includes the life-sized replica of the giraffe. Animals are companions for human beings. We should protect them and treat them like friends," said one student visiting the pavilion with her classmates.

# Carter, meets Abubakar praises return to civilian rule

ABUJA (AFP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter met Nigeria's military ruler General Abdulsalami Abubakar Friday on the last day of a four-day visit to assess preparations for elections next month.

Carter met Abubakar for around an hour to discuss the elections and the promised return to civilian rule this year, U.S. and Nigerian officials said.

Since he arrived in the country Tuesday, the 74vear-old U.S. politician, who in 1979 became the first U.S. president to visit Africa in the post-colonial era, has met with dozens of politicians and civil society leaders in Lagos, the main city, and Abuja, the capital.

He has praised the government's plans to end the run of military regimes which have blighted Nigeria — with only a four-year break --since 1966.

Abubakar, after coming to power in June following the death of the late military ruler General Sani Abacha, promised a swift return to civilian rule and ordered elections, to be run by an

National Independent Electoral Commission

The first elections, local polls, took place in December, followed by state polls earlier this month. Legislative polls are due on

Feb. 20, followed by presidential polls on Feb. 27. The military is then supposed to hand over to the elected govemment May 29.

These are among the most important elections in the world this year." Carter said Thursday. The world will be watch-

ing" the return of democracy in Africa's most populous country, he said.

The Carter Centre, a private organisation he set up after leaving the White House to promote democracy and human rights, is among a number of international organisations to send monitors to assess the elections ordered by Abubakar.

Also sending monitors are the Commonwealth, which suspended Nigeria from memberships in 1995 over its human rights abuses, the European Union, the United Nations and an independent Europe.

Nigerian watchdog organisa-tion the Transition Monitoring Group.

Carter praised the running of the elections to date and Thursday persuaded INEC chief Justice Ephraim Akpata to authorise an increase in the number of accredited independent observers.

Friday morning, Carter met first, for breakfast, with General Yakubu Gowon, who ruled the country from July 1966 to 1975, to discuss a health project both are pro-

moting. He had Thursday also visited the Nigerian war college to give a talk at their Conflict Resolution Centre and praised the role of Nigerian troops in the west African intervention force currently

in Sierra Leone. Carter said he had asked his officials to see what could be done to assist Nigeria with medical supplies for troops wounded in the fighting in the west

African country. Carter was to address a press conference in Lagos later Friday before leaving for the United States via

# Cambodian king urges government to save treasures

PHNOM PENH (R) — King Norodom Sihanouk has called on Prime Minister Hun Sen to save Cambodia's national heritage and stop the theft and smuggling of ancient artefacts out of the coun-

The king's call came as neighbouring Thailand said it was ready to return to Cambodia 117 sandstone sculptures looted from a 12th-13th century temple in northwest Cambodia.

The pieces were seized from smugglers earlier this month.

In a message from Beijing where he is

undergoing medical checks, the king expressed concern at recent reports of the theft of carvings and statues from ancient temples.

"Regarding this serious problem I would like the prime minister to check and take proper measures to protect our national heritage," Sihanouk said in his message, released by the palace Friday.

Officials said this week that a treasure trove of ancient Cambodian artefacts, many of them looted from the Angkor and Preah Vihear temples. was being smuggled

DOLOGS border Thailand.

Police in Thailand intercepted a truck near Cambodian border on Jan. 5 and found it carrying sculptures dismantled from the inner wall of an Angkor-era temple at Banteay Chamar, 350 km northwest of Phnom

Penh.

The haul, one of the biggest of smuggled Cambodian artefacts ever made in the region, was impounded in Thailand's Prachin Buri province. Officials in Prachin Buri said Thursday they were ready to return the items to Cambodia.

"These ancient treasures were part of the sandstone wall sculptures of Banteay Chamar temple. We are willing to return them to Cambodia as soon as possible," the director of the provincial Amphan museum, Kijngam, told Reuters.

When pieced together the 117 slabs depict a three-metre high and twoand-a-half metre wide figare of the Buddha, showing him in previous and incarnations, fature Amphan said.

The carvings would

fetch more than 10 mil-

lion baht (\$280,000) on

the local black market, a museum official said. A Cambodian official

said this week "armed men" stole the carvings from Banteay Chamar. Cambodian government troops and opposition fighters until recently clashed intermittently in the troubled northwest of the country where the temple is located.

Thai investigators and museum officials said the carvings were looted by Cambodian government soldiers. Cambodian soldiers.

police and occasionally foreign tourists have in the past been caught stealing artefacts and trying to smuggle them to the international black market. Khmer Rouge guerrillas

also looted many artefacts and used them to decorate their houses or hid them in jungles around their old base of Anlong Veng, seized by government forces last year.

The government is now trying to collect the items stolen by the rebels and take them to a conservation centre near the Angkor temples on the outskirts of the northern town of Siem Reap, before guerrillas-turnedsmugglers steal them.

Macau s two

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Mental Mailes (M.)

set an agenda for formal peace negotiations began last month in a demilitarised zone in the south.

paramilitary groups. Earlier Thursday, at a ceremo-

"We are determined to build an integral peace that encompasses each of the different aspects of the nation's life," Pastrana said Governments, politicians and humanitarian groups throughout the Americas also appealed to FARC guerrillas to go back to the

peace table. U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said that "all armed groups bear responsibility of addressing the peaceful aspirations of the Colombian people," and reiterat-

Pastrana's peace initiative. In a letter to Pastrana, FARC said they would not return to the negotiating table until the gov-

paramilitary groups. The government replied Wednesday to the FARC's demand with a detailed list of its

and in-absentia sentences.

army announced The Wednesday it killed seven FARC guerrillas in its first battle with troops since the rebels walked away from peace talks Tuesday night

lence also accompanied the talks, with at least 130 dead in the first week of negotiations.

have died in almost four decades of fighting in Colombia. Pastrana also said the demili-

tarised zone in southern Colombia would return to government control, as scheduled, on Feb. 7.

# Romanian PM in talks with miners, state of emergency looms

COZIA, Romania (AFP) -Romanian premier Radu Vasile arrived Friday for face-to-face talks with miners' leaders, as President Emil Constantinescu threatened to declare a state of emergency if the miners do not turn back.

Vasile flew into the village of Cozia, 170 km west of Bucharest, even as a column of security forces and antiriot police was reportedly en route to reinforce a blockade against the miners.

Miron Cozma, the main union leader, was also at the monastery just north of the town of Rimnicu-Vilcea where thousands of miners are massed, threatening to continue their advance on Bucharest, sources said.

"The prime minister has decided to involve himself personally in dialogue with the miners," said Vasile's spokesman earlier. Vasile was accompanied by his finance and industry ministers, as well as Bishop Ioan of Harghita and Covasna, who was from Jiu Valley "knows the miners

The miners themselves appeared determined to press on, "Cozma, where are you? We are leaving for Bucharest," the crowds chanted after the government offer of talks was announced.

"Down with the government" they shouted in Rimnicu-Vilcea, where they had spent the night about 150 kilometres west of Bucharest.

The developments came after Constantinescu, speaking following a meeting of the Supreme Defence Council, warned the miners that he would declare a state of emergency unless they called off their march by 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT).

Romanian television reported that an armoured convoy was heading with thousands of security troops and antiriot police towards Rimnicu-Vilcea, the latest stage on the march which started Monday.

The convoy stretched for more than three kilometres

1990-91 protests Bucharest which turned violent and sparked the fall of the then government.

"Resign! Resign!" and armed Monday, saying: "If they try to move in any other direc-

tion, the state of emergency will come into force immedigrely. the nation.

Shortly after his statement,

and included tanks and dozens of army trucks, the private television Pro-TV said.

The miners' march has

Reminding the strikers that he is commander of the Constantinescu them to return to Petrosani, where the march began

> He added: "In recent days, the illegal demonstrations of the miners have caused serious violence and dangers to

He referred specifically to incidents Thursday, when thousands of miners overwhelmed police and paragendarmes deployed to stop them at Horezu, near Rimmeu-

"The state of siege can be installed for a maximum of 60 days and a state of emergency for a maximum of 30 days. These two measures are decreed by the president submitted to the and approval of parliament," a

ment was timed to begin at 2:00 p.m., when Constantinescu's ultimatum

expired. The miners from Jiu coalfields are Valley demanding a 35-per cent pay hike and a reversal of government plans to shut down unprofitable pits, which they say would put thousands out of work.

They left the town of Petrosani Monday after a two-week strike failed to persuade the government to review its response to their demands.

Thursday's clashes in Horezu were the most violent so far leaving 133 injured, including 124 policemen, according to official figures. One policeman is in a coma with a fractured skull and seven others are in a serious condition. Interior Minister Gavril

Dejeu, criticised for his failure to stop the march, and Wednesday had declared the miners "would reach Bucharest," resigned.

Cozma prayed for a few minutes after arriving here, sources said.

Heavy

gunfire

## statement said. Kazakh PM wins overwhelming confirmation vote from parliament

Kazakh deputies reconfirmed Balgimbayev in office and approved his program to soften the impact of the Russian economic crisis

The confirmation follows the Jan. 10 presidential election in which Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayey was reelected with 79.78 per cent of the

But a prominent think

tank, the Australian Defence

Association, accused the

has been relieved of his

Nazarbayev told parlia-

the world became victims the (economic) crisis and millions of people instantly became impoverished, we stood our

The president charged Balgimbayev with forming a new government, which expected to

A highly-placed govern-ment official told AFP just

the same economic course, including programmes to attract investment, lower the Central Asian country's trade deficit and support Kazakh industry to create jobs, Interfax news agency reported.

deputies he would pursue

Kazakhstan, a resourcerich country of nearly 16 million people, has been the ordeal thanks in part to hard hit by falling world prices for oil and metals, its most important revenueproducing exports.

Also, cheap imports from Russia have flooded the former Soviet republic's market places leaving domestically-produced goods uncompetitive.

Balgimbayev said one of his first tasks would be to suggest revisions to the 1999 budget, which forecasts a fall in output of 1.5

male culture in the wrong

per cent.

## erupts in Brazzaville BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) -Heavy artillery fire broke out

early Friday to the southwest of Brazzaville, the capital of Congo, where troops backing the country's military ruler are fighting rival militia forces, an AFP correspondent said.

At 8:00 a.m. (0700 GMT), shelling and multiple rocketlauncher fire could be heard both in Brazzaville and across the Congo river in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The artillery fire, which appeared to come from the Linzolo highland region some 20 kilometres southwest of Brazzaville, began just before dawn.

Military officials refused to

comment on the shelling. The renewed violence follows the lifting Tuesday of a blockade on Brazzaville's southwestern districts of Makelekele and Bacongo, where several hundred people are said to have been killed in fighting.

Residents of these areas were still reluctant Friday to return to their homes because of prevailing insecu-

The fighting has been between President Denis Sassou Nguesso's army. backed by Angolan troops, and so-called Ninja militia loyal to former prime minister and Brazzaville mayor Bernard Kolelas.

In December, General Sassou Nguesso's forces also sealed off the region known as the Pool, which adjoins Brazzaville, and pursued operations against the Ninias who fell back into forest and highland terrain when Nguesso returned to power in October 1997 after a fivemonth civil war.

The 1997 conflict was sparked when elected president Pascal Lissouba, who had taken over from Sassou Nguesso in 1992, sought to disarm rival militias ahead of a planned new presidential poll in the oil-rich central African country.

Between 4,000 and 10,000 people lost their lives between May and October 1997 and Brazzaville was badly damaged in that civil

The latest fighting, which broke out towards the end of last year, Thursday cost the life of a French embassy guard on duty outside the diplomatic mission in Bacongo. Two shells also landed across the river in Kinshasa, injuring at least six people in the Binza district



Romanian police throw tear gas to disperse striking coal miners. The miners broke through a police road block near the village of Costesti village, 200 km west of Bucharest. The miners, who are striking in support of a 35 per wage rise and protesting against the planned closure of 140 pits, also captured several dozen policemen (Reuters

# Angola reinforces key town after UNITA grabs bridge

MALANJE, Angola (R) government Friday poured reinforcements into the northern city of Malanje after UNITA rebels seized a key bridge across the country's largest river and said they were preparing to shell the city.

Government transport planes flew in fresh troops to reinforce exhausted comrades driven from the bridge of Porto Salazar over the Kuanza river late Wednesday, witnesses said. The atmosphere in Malanje, a gateway to the capital Luanda on the coast,

was tense as defeated govemment troops headed into the city from the bridge. "Everybody in this town knows that UNITA has

a resident said.

ment army has lost it. Our hearts are now in our mouths." said another elderly man. Witnesses said retreating

government troops could be

(AFP) — The Royal

Australian Navy denied sex-

ual harassment was a sys-

temic problem here Friday

after the captain of a frigate

was deposed over sex alle-

gations involving female

Commander Tony Gale.

the captain of the HMAS

Sydney, gained the dubious

Australia

CANBERRA,

taken control of the bridge," "The bridge was our sal-

vation but now the govern-

seen trudging back into Malanje from the direction of the bridge without their equipment.

Angola returned to civil war after the government launched an attack on UNITA last month, signalling an end to attempts to keep a four-year-old peace

accord working. National Union for the Independence of Angola (UNITA) commanders told Reuters by telephone from their headquarters at Andulo in the central highlands that their forces were conducting mop-up

operations at Porto Salazar. "We are mopping up the area and also dismantling enemy infiltration and supply lines," one commander

UNITA forces said they had killed 97 government troops and captured Russian-built battle tanks, multiple rocket launchers, anti-aircraft defence systems and communication vehicles in the battle for the

ever lose his command for

His suspension came after

several calls to a toll-free

hotline set up by the Navy

accusing him of inappropri-

ate sexual conduct with

female crew members. The

navy refused to detail the

allegations but acting

behavioural reasons, a navy

spokesman said.

An aide to UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi said UNITA had not yet started shelling Malanje but would do so

a tactic regional analysts

Dec. 5 on Savimbi's hide-

town of Soyo, on the coast.

described Gale's alleged

conduct as "unacceptable

Gale had served as the

head officer on the Sydney-

based missile frigate for

about a year and could face

charges at a court martial as

O'Hara said the swift han-

dling of the matter proved

a result of the allegations.

sexual behaviour.

Analysts said the capture

"We are preparing to shell Malanje so that we can weaken it and make it a weak target," said the aide. Last month UNITA repeatedly shelled Malanje with long-range artillery in

said was aimed at trying to divide government forces in Luanda from others in the UNITA also besieged the highland towns of Huambo and Kuito in a military campaign provoked by a failed government offensive on

outs at Andulo and Bailundo. UNITA commanders say their forces have consolidated positions along the border with Democratic Republic of the Congo and are advancing others towards the strategic oil

most senior naval officer to Commodore Jim O'Hara

of Porto Salazar had given UNITA a tactical advantage as it would be able to put pressure on the Congo border town of Matadi and cut the supply line to Angolan government troops supporting President Laurent Kabila in his fight against rebels in the Congo.

The United Nations-bro-Angolan peace kered accord, signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka, collapsed in acrimony after UNITA refused to disarm, citing distrust of the government. Angola then expelled UNITA from an administration of national

Analysts have warned that the renewed war in Angola could have a direct link with the civil war in Congo where Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe are helping Kabila against Ugandan and

Rwandan-backed rebels. The two conflicts, if not quickly handled, could erupt into a full-scale multinational war at the heart of Africa, analysts say.

worked and denied the navy

as a whole faced a problem.

incident is that the proce-

dures put in place by the

Australian Defence Force

"Our people are confident

are working," O'Hara said.

in that they can report inci-

dents of unacceptable sexu-

al behaviour of this nature

and that it is dealt with

ing season (Reuters photo)

"What comes out of this

dealing with such matters promptly."

## have ment Prime

and tumbling world commodity prices, reports said

Balgimbayev, the former head of the state oil concern Kazakhoil who has led the government since the fall of 1997, won an overwhelming 102-0 vote from parliament late Thursday, official daily Pravda Kazakhstanskaya

reported.

supported Balgimbayev's reconfirma-"When many countries of

ground," Nazarbayev said. "Our currency withstood the necessary preventive measures the government

announced within days.

before Balgimbayev's confirmation that major ministerial changes were unlike-

Balgimbayev

Australian navy hit with 'unacceptable' sex scandal

navy of making Gale a mous allegations." scapegoat because it was terrified of adverse publici-"It's quite scandalous the way these things are handled," executive director Mike O'Connor said. "He

command without due process or natural justice, without charges being laid, on the strength of anony-

The sex allegations were not the first to hit the Australian navy or the HMAS Sydney. In 1992, when some 30 women became joined its crew following an upgrade of its facilities to accommodate

women, four female crew told a hearing that while they had not been sexually harassed in the course of their work they knew others who had. That forced the then chief of the naval staff, Admiral Ian MacDougall, to admit the navy had gone about integrating women into its

### the institution's system for deputy chief of the navy honour of becoming the Pastrana willing to hold peace talks with rebels on foreign soil

BOGOTA (AFP) — President Andres Pastrana said he favoured holding peace talks with the country's largest rebel group on foreign soil away from media

From what I have seen, I believe it would be best to hold them abroad, because there Would be more freedom and tranquillity," Pastrana said in a radio interview late Thursday. "I have already said that peace

annot be achieved through the

media," the president told Caracol radio. Several countries, including Costa Rica, have offered their erritory for the peace talks between Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Preliminary talks between the government and FARC rebels to The FARC pulled out of the talks luesday complaining that the overnment did nothing to stop a olling rampage by right-wing

ny with foreign diplomats here, tenced for paramilitary activity, Pastrana said he would continue to strive for peace despite the FARC's unilateral suspension of

peace talks.

ed Washington's full support for

emment began fighting far-right

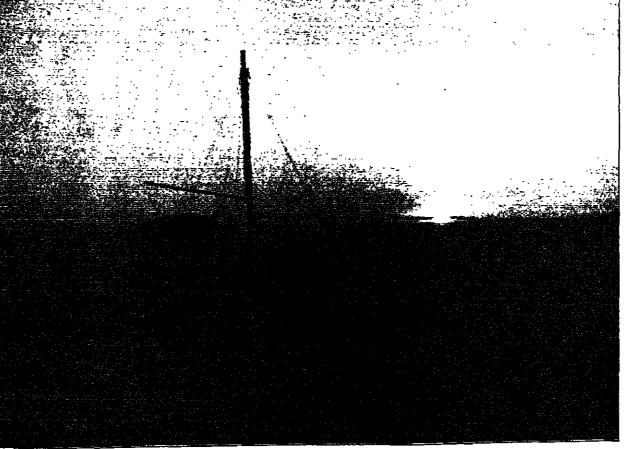
anti-paramilitary efforts. The government said it currently holds 370 prisoners sen-

82 prisoners for paramilitary activity while serving in government security forces and issued about a thousand arrest warrants

Some 500 FARC prisoners are in government prisons. The government rejected FARC's charges that government forces have been lax in fighting the paramilitaries and said it has ordered them to be fought "head-

A surge in paramilitary vio-

An estimated 120,000 people In his interview with Caracol,



RISING SUN - A small fishing boat sits on the shore of an Arctic island as the sun appears above the horizon for the first time, Jan. 18, following four months of polar darkness in one of Canada's northern most communities 1,921 km from the North Pole. The sun only appears on the horizon for about 10 or 20 minutes before setting again. The appearance of the sun has deep significance in Inuit life and signals the beginning of new hunt-

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## There is an alternative

TOMORROW'S ARAB foreign ministers meeting in Cairo will be the first opportunity since the U.S. and British air strikes on Iraq in December for Arab nations to formulate a common policy vis-a-vis the sanctions regime imposed on Iraq these last nine years.

The importance of finding a common Arab policy can hardly be overstated: the nine years of sanctions on Iraq have, by some estimates, caused the death of over a million innocent Iraqis, the suffering of untold others, as well as severely affected the whole region both economically and politically. Jordan has had to bear the brunt of the resultant human influx, initially taking in 300,000 returnees from Kuwait in 1991, and is, according to unofficial figures, at any one time housing 120,000 Iraqi refugees. Tourism to the region has dropped, and as oil-prices seem to be going the same way, no-one is immune to turbulence in the region. Building a stable economy demands a stable region, and as long as the sanctions on Iraq continue, there is no chance for stability.

The security of Iraq's neighbours was touted in December by American and British officials as the reason for military intervention. and non-compliance with resolutions as the raison d'etre for the continuation of the sanctions, well, the neighbours of Iraq are meet ing tomorrow and should make clear their feelings on the issue. It is in their united interests to solve this crisis as soon as possible, and they should be united in their approach. The participation of Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf should be welcome; after all, it is Iraq that is at the core of the issue, their point of view must be heard.

As for non-compliance with U.N. resolutions and international agreements, U.S. and British policy seems to be confused: the stalled Wye Accords and the West's recent stand on Serbia and the atrocities in Kosovo are examples that spring to mind. Here there are no punitive air-strikes, and no support for opposition groups to destabilise the regimes of Prime Minister Netanyahu or President Milosovic.

However, the U.S. and Britain have set themselves the task of laying down the law to Iraq and 'ensuring stability' in the region. It is up to the countries in the region to put a stop to this if they don't like the way it is being handled. Without a clear and comprehensive alternative policy from Iraq's neighbours, the sanctions regime will be seen as the only way to deal with Iraq, and it will continue. It is an Arab issue, and it should be solved by Arabs, for Arabs.

### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi said it is obvious that there is U.S. and European pressure on the Palestinians to delay the declaration of statehood on May 4. It would be difficult for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to sacrifice the relations with Washington and the European Union, Rimawi added. However, the writer said, in order to overcome such pressure, which are only concerned about the timing of the declaration, the Palestinian side must demand the following rights: a full implementation of the Wye River accord, a U.S. commitment to recognise the state as soon as it is declared at the end of 1999, an immediate stop to all settlements on occupied land. U.S. and European committing to these guarantees would be worth the postponement of a declaration of statehood, said Rimawi.

Al Ra'i's Mohammad Jayyousi said Iran is currently seeking an Islamic political solution for the Iraq crisis. Iran has already started its efforts regarding the issue by contacting France and Russia - both of whom have suggested non-military solutions to the problem - and other Arab countries, Jayyousi claimed. The Iranian approach is very important, because of the country's Islamic, regional and international position and its "calm," diplomatic and "wise" relations with Arab, Asian and African countries as well as the European Union. It is also important, because it shows Iran trying to overcome U.S. attempts to involve Iran in conflicts in the region, said Jayyousi, who added that Iran's move was worth supporting and understanding, because it could be a chance to help solve the Iraq crisis.

# The challenges ahead

IT WOULD be too soon to jump to hasty conclusions based on speculations and misinterpretions of His Majesty King Hussein's statements to the CNN a few days go.

The Royal family's main strength has always been the cohesive nature of special bonds that cement the loyalty of the Hashemite family. Those special bonds were not confined to princes and members of the Ashraf, but also extended to fortify the exquisite fabric of loyalty which pervades the larger Jordanian family. Those bonds and ties are "the magical formulae for survival" which, for years, has astounded and mystified contemporary political historians.

The tangible and concrete manifestations has been the joy and relief among Jordanians over the return home of His Majesty after successful treatment abroad. It needs no description as the sentiments of the people were evident in the massive turnout on the streets to greet him on Tuesday, despite the bad weather. It was a natural outpouring of the feeling that King Hussein is the head of his family as well as the most senior figure of every Jordanian household. He enjoys not only the stature and respect of the father figure, but also the love that

family members have for its head. Now that His Majesty is back and fully recovered from illness as he

time for reflections on the future. assured that we do not have a hidgiven the many problems facing our country. These problems did not appear out of the blue during the King's six-month absence from the country; they have been part and parcel of the political, economic and social life in Jordan for years.

Despite all official assertions and comments to the contrary, Jordan's relations with its neighbours, particularly Syria and Iraq, are uneasy. It is not the first time the situation has deteriorated, but it needs urgent attention. Our neighbours should be told, in no uncertain terms, that they should keep their noses out of our internal affairs, just as we Jordanians do not meddle in the internal affairs of any of our neighbours. We mean no one any harm, and we expect our neighbours not to inflict harm upon us.

The uncertainty surrounding the peace process is another source of concern. Despite all our efforts to make it clear that the Palestinians have to determine their own future and Jordan wants to have no say in their choice and independent decision-making, there seem to be lurking suspicions on their part that Jordan has a hidden agenda. Those suspicions have to be rooted out and eliminated once and for all. It is not easy, because the very nature of this region, and it is also true that no one

promised his family members, it is can ever be fully convinced and den agenda. But then, let us do our part to reassure them, and leave it to them to harbour or eliminate their

> However, we cannot distance ourselves from the reality that whatever happens on the Palestinian scene will have a direct bearing on Jordan in view of the intrinsic links between the two sides. So we need to find a common platform where developments are discussed in an open manner so that both sides can undertake the necessary actions without having to look over the

Equally pressing are our internal issues in terms of administration and the economy. Whether we like it or not, the reality is that inefficiency, nepotism, favouritism and corruption seem to haunt our administrative scene despite vigourous, committed efforts launched by the anti corruption department. Some among us even argue that given the very "tribal" nature of Jordanian society, eliminating such administrative ailments will be a long, drawn-out process. But the question is, in this fast-moving world which is quickly becoming a global village characterised by integrated economies and, more importantly, liberal, open and competitive societies, can we Jordanians

## Jordanian **Perspective**



Dr. Musa Keilani

afford to sit back and blame tradi-

tions and family links for our ills? And that is where the sweeping reforms that the King is contemplating come in. We need to adapt ourselves to the changing world around us, and we have to do it fast. The changes that we need to undergo start with the basic acceptance that the private sector and every individual has to take the initiative. There can no longer be blind dependence on the government to set the pace. History has shown that dependence on the state for economic motivation only inhibits growth and selfreliance. The government itself does not want that. It has said so in so many words that it can only be a guiding light and can assume only the role of a regulator who protects public interests.

Such an approach starts with simple things. An example is the dependence of many Jordanian farmers on subsidised water and power. On paper there is no subsidy, but what can one call the consistent losses that the government-owned entities incur every year? The state has no option but to raise the tariffs if it were to run cost-effective opera-tions. But if the government increases the tariffs, then there will be hell to pay from the farmers whose farming and marketing techniques leave a lot to be desired. Their profits come from the low cost of production. As such the government is paying for their subsistence.

There are many other similar san ations in our midst. How long can this vicious circle of income to people paid for by the state continue (except perhaps as a welfare find for the needy)?

Ger

By Howard

But on the occasion of His Majesty's return home, and as one writer commented recently "the whole world today was witness to the amazing and wonderful bond between His Majesty and his people. A mutual affection that is quite extraordinary... Our endiess thanks to the Almighty, and our prayers to Him to protect and save Jordan and His Majesty..."

# There is something rotten...

RECENT REPORTS from various parts of the world are indicating a serious lack of concern on the part of people over the well-being of their neighbours and cohuman beings. Serbian police and military forces continue their pogrom against basically anything that moves in the former Yugoslavia, executing "terrorist" women, children and elderly men. The U.S. and Britain cherish and respect the people of Iraq so much that they keep in place a sanctions regime that has killed over a million Iraqis so far. Rebels in Sierra Leone amputate hands and feet of civilians unfortunate enough to have been caught in the fighting.

Then, perhaps more disturbing than the phenomenon of deceased persons being found in their dwellings long after their demise. What happens in these gruesome incidents is this: people die in their homes, and the bodies remain there, sometimes for years, before being discovered. It seems odd that in these times. with population density and the information age being what they are, people can be ignorant of the fact that their neighbours have not left their places of residence for a long, long time, but it hap-

Sometimes the events surrounding these deaths are truly absurd. Upon learning that their reclusive neighbour had been dead for four years, a Canadian family said they had no doubts there was a corpse in the house. What tipped them off, apparently, was a horrible stench that prevented them from sitting in their back yard. In another incident, this time in Germany, the skeleton of a man who had threatened his neighbours was only found after the money in his account that went towards the rent ran out.

The fact that people can just die without others knowing about it. I feel, indicates that the population at large, in addition to displaying an appalling lack of curiosity, has taken the issue of "privacy" too far. Letting individuals live their lives without butting in is one thing, but leaving them dead in their houses and apartments is something else. Even more ominous, it could possibly indicate that one of the pillars of civilisation, burial of the dead, is becoming less important to certain societies in our world.

Thankfully, Jordan has not joined in this parade of decadence, and no one should fear the ignominous fate of remaining sad situations outlined above, there is the deceased in their abodes unbeknownst to others. The factor that prevents such ignorance and callousness here. I think, is the strong information network, which operates both on the grass-roots and the official levels. On the informal level, the average individual remains aware of what's going on by constantly questioning the environment, and even reality, around his or her person. By delving into the background, practices, habits and personal information of strangers, and then sharing this knowledge in as wide a circle as possible, citizens contribute to breaking down this ill-conceived notion of privacy. On the official level, institutions such as the Information Ministry constantly work to keep members of the public informed on current developments, letting nothing, including concerns about deadlines and late, late nights, stand in their way. With such supervision, on several levels, the very thought of dying without someone knowing becomes nonsensical.

But there are still those who would throw this network of care and concern Out of Order



**Brian Brown** 

away like so much unnecessary and obsowho would welcome the idea of dying in their house and being forgotten in exchange for just being left alone. People who, despite the security such a system offers, do not want a million eyes on them 24 hours per. To them. I quote a famous Enlightenment-period thinker who shall remain nameless to protect his identity: "No man is an island unto himself." Get used to the super continent of humanity. and never fear dying alone or being for-

RECOMMENDED Animal Farm, by George Orwell. Like animals? You may not enjoy them so much after reading this novel. Orwell exposes animals as the vicious, totalitarian tyrants they are. Actually, the book is a retelling of how the ideals of the Russian revolution fell by the wayside and the ensuing power struggle that led to the ousting of Trotsky (Snowball in the book). Short and to the point.

## LETTERS

Best wishes

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to have this opportunity to offer my thanks to Allah that our beloved father and King has recovered from his sickness and returned to our belover! country Jordan. We pray to Allah to keep His Majesty in good health for a long and prosperous life.

> Khaled and Riyadh Mohammed Eqab Richmond , Virginia

# Regional concerns occupy columnists

Compiled by Mohammad Ben Hussein

Columnists last week criticised reports that HM King Hussein had asked the U.S. for its opinion to determine Jordan's future. They continued to comment on the Iraqi standoff with the United States, and also discussed the possibility of the birth of democracy in Iraq after recent reports on the issue. Others focused their attention on Palestinian attempts to

obtain international recognition for a Palestinium state.

Ra'i's Tareq Masarweh criticised "Al Watan Al Arabi for reporting that the King was consulting the United States to determine his suc-

cessor. The writer said the King has always been able to take his own decisions. Masarweh said His Majesty's clashes with some Arab countries as well as Western countries in the fifties and the sixties was exactly because of the King's constant refusal to accept foreign interference in Jordan's internal politics. Many other incidents also proves that the King does not need anybody's opinion concerning what is the best for Jordan. The King has always tried to keep space to manoeuvre for his political acts on the local and Arab arenas, said the writer, Jordan was one of the big losers in the Gulf War for not allying with any party in the conflict. Massarweh said.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab commented on the Iraq crisis with the United States on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the Gulf War. He said Iraq was driven to invade Kuwait as much as it was driven to the eight years of deadly war with Iran. Iraq was targeted by the United States because of its oil and its strategic location which enables it to play a significant role in the Arab World and in leading the Arab Nation. A quick review of Iraq's recent history, in which Iraq started to develop on the economic, social and political fronts leading the country to become one of the top developing countries, would explain why the American administration targeted Iraq. Qallab said Iraq was pressured into war with Iran - which could have been avoided — as much as it could

have avoided its confrontation with the United States if it had not invaded Kuwait. He called on the trans leadership to take on board the lessons from its 16 years of war with its neighbours and from the history of human kind, by learning the proper time, place and means to

mented on the long overdue launch of the Palestinian stare. He said Palestinian National Authority officials might consider postponing a declaration statehood

> Israeli elecwhat world thinks about the birth of Palestinian state at that time of the

claimed Palestinian officials could

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi commented on news reports that the Iraqi leadership is holding meetings with opposition party leaders. The writer welcomed the Iraqi move. which was not confirmed by Baghdad, and considered it a beginning of a new era in the history of Iraq. Whether Iraq's measure was late, or Iraq was forced to accept talking to the opposition, this SEP was still a very important step in the history of the traci nation said the writer. The Iraqi people should look to the future which will be bugiter. Rimawi. There must be good in the tions in the democratic process and a safe atmosphere in which these. opposition can work under the while learning from the mistale others, he added.

## Time for intervention in Kosovo

By Myint Zan

THE BRUTAL massacre of innocent ethnic weekend of January 15-17 in Kosovo allegedly by world. This is not the first time such outrages and heinous crimes have been committed against them.

national law. But what are the realistic or viable options which the 'international community' can take to remedy the situation or to minimise the possibility of recurrence? The eminent international lawyer Oppenheim

stated in his text book, first published in 1912, that "when a state treats its own nationals in a way that shocks the conscience of mankind [military] intervention in the name of humanity is permissible" under international law. This concept was known as the doctrine of humanitarian intervention in classical (ie pre-20th century) international law.

In the mid to late 19th century the Western European Christian powers forcibly intervened in the Turkish Ottoman Empire ostensibly to protect the minority Christian communities from persecution. These were classified by Oppenheim as legitimate examples of the application of the doctrine of humanitarian intervention.

Relevant and important questions — at least to the academic international lawyer — in the context of the latest massacres in Kosovo are: Is the concept of humanitarian intervention still valid in contemporary international law? Should it be legitimately employed as a justification for unilateral or collective military actions in Kosovo?

A 'strict constructionist' interpretation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter would not equate. As far as Kosovo is concerned NATO readily yield the conclusion that the concept of humanitarian intervention in its classical definition and operational mode is still valid in modern international law. The U.N. Charter expressly allows the use of force only in two contingencies or situations: (1) When there is an 'armed attack' against a

member of the United Nations and the attacked

Security Council in conformity with the provisions action — including the use of force such as air Albanian men, women and children during the of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. Hence a unilatestrikes against Serbia or Yugoslav positions in eral humanitarian intervention — without U.N. Serbian troops has outraged many throughout the authorisation — would appear prima facie not to be in conformity with the provisions of the U.N. Charter. Yet a policy-oriented approach and a progressive interpretation of the U.N. Charter should These heinous acts are gross violations of intersuggest that the legitimacy of certain forms of humanitarian intervention in extreme situations of human rights violations should not be dismissed out of hand. This argument is based mainly on the increasing and substantial emphasis given to that Russia would veto any resolution which anthohuman rights issues both in the U.N. Charter and in rise 'all necessary means' to protect the ethnic other multilateral treaties in the current era.

Indeed, as early as 1970, the International Court of Justice in the Barcelona Traction case observed that the right to be free from mass killings, aggression, torture and slavery are obligations erga omnes that states owed to the entire international commu-

It is significant that at least a few of these 'core' human tights have been violated on a sporadic basis by the Serb or Yugoslav authorities in Kosovo for the past year or so.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) led by the United States has, in recent months, came close to using force against Yugoslavia for its human rights violations against the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo — only to back down at the last moment.

NATO has taken certain measures which fell short of using force against Serbia or Yugoslavia. a-vis the Kosovo situation. The massacres that occurred in Kosovo during the weekend have proven that these measures are inadindeed has done what was inevitable, but not all that is necessary. At the time of this writing the United Nations Security Council is deliberating what actions it could take --- or what resolutions it could pass - in response to the latest massacres in

country and/or its allies responded in 'individual or lution to 'use all necessary means' to prevent a Australia.....

repeat of these beinous crimes against the ethnic (2) As an enforcement action authorised by the Albanians in Kosovo then it is well and good. Any Kosovo - could then be legalistically justified as a 'collective enforcement action' under the U.N. Charter. Humanitarian intervention as understood in the classical sense need not come into the picture in this scenario.

But 'blood' (ethnicity, geopolitics, power blocs or national self-interest) is thicker than 'water' (legal and moral principles protecting human rights) in international relations. It is quite likely Albanians of Kosovo.

Then the concept of humanitarian intervention can be used as a moral force or an arguable legal ground for the U.S. and NATO to act militarily even if there is no specific U.N. resolution authorising that. If an effective use of military force by NATO were to take place in Kosovo it would be morally and legally more justifiable than the bombings of Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan by the United

States and Britain in recent months. The now besieged (though not necessarily 'endangered') Bill Clinton said a few mouths ago, and in effect that, 'the graves of the Balkans has been littered with the broken promises of [Yugoslav's] President Milosevic.' He and those such as NATO who have the 'teeth' but so far persaps lack the will, might find the concept of humanitarian intervention useful and felicitous vis-

Humanitarian intervention can be legitimately used — at least morally — to justify any unilateral or collective military action they may take to alleviate the sufferings of many Kosovans. And well they should. Lest the broken promises of Milosevic' continue to add further bodies to and haunt the graves in the killing fields of Kosovo.

The writer is a member of faculty at the If and when the Security Council adopts a reso- School of Law. Deakin University in Al Dustour's Orieb Rintzwi com-

because of the year. The writer

take best advantage of the pressure to postpone the lanneh of the Palestinian state, by convincing the United States as well as Europe to. recognise such a state if the launch date was delayed. He said the Palestinians would be able to obtain recognition for their state even before its birth, and any retaliation measures by Israel, which opposes the birth of a Palestinian state. would meet with international criticism. Israel realises the fact that the Palestinian state will eventually be launched and that their efforts to prevent its birth are futile, claimed Rintawi. He said the Israeli leader ship is currently focusing its attention on the identity of the state and how it will look, rather than the

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# Brazilians brace for hardship

By Beatriz Lecumberri Agence France Presse

STORES ARE running out of imported goods and retailers are bracing for the worst following the 20 per cent devaluation of national currency, the real.

Credit cards and deferred payment plans practically disappeared over the weekend, since the real's exchange rate is unpre-

Prices have already started rising for some items such as imported foods and Japanesemade television sets. And travel abroad is likely to take a big hit. The buying power of the real plunged when

h starts with the right and power of subside but the consistent loss of the tariff, it is effective the government is, then there will it out to be desired in the from the key of the consistent with the government is, then there will it out to be desired in the from the key of the consistent with the cons

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the Central Bank let its value float in the free

But authorities here and the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) both insist the devaluation is a first step designed to foster confidence among foreign investors in Brazil's

However for regular Brazilians, the new monetary policy only means their reals will be able to buy considerably less than before.

The effect was immediate: store owners and managers said their sales plunged 30 per cent in the first weekend after the Central Bank announcement.

"January is a bad month on its own, but sales hit rock bottom with last week's news." said a store owner in a central Rio shopping mall, "Consumers are scared and don't understand these changes in the economy."

Although most prices have not increased with the devaluation, imported products are an exception and stores specialising in such items were empty over the weekend.

Distributors of high-tech products, automobiles and imported foodstuffs dread the moment their stocks run out and have to be replenished with new, more expensive prod-

In some stores, however, prices have already jumped. An imported Japanese television worth 1,768 reals on Thursday rose to 2,014 reals Monday.

Perhaps the automobile sector can avoid raising their prices since brands such as Citroen, Peugeot, Chrysler and Subaru have large inventories accumulated since 1997.

The devaluation, however, is bound to change the eating habits of many Brazilians: over the past four years a sizeable number of them have grown accustomed to imported food items.

"The middle-class dream of having all the products of the developed world at hand is over, several economists pointed out.

From 1996 to 1998, Brazilians went through 29,000 tonnes of imported chocolate, 360,000 bottles of French wine and \$770 million worth of imported vegetables. While paying 20 per cent more for cheese,

French champagne, Belgian chocolate or Spanish office oil may not dent the pocketbook of the wealthy, price inflation will also affect the food that Brazilians of more modest income est.

On the upside, a drop in demand for expensive imports is likely to result in a greater demand for Brazilian-made equivalents.

However the unexpected spike in interest rates from an already high maximum of 36 per cent to 41 per cent announced late Monday by the Central Bank is likely to put a dent in plans to decrease production costs.

And food is not the only item getting more expensive. As of this week, many Brazilians will have to curtail their travel plans. A weeklong vacation in Paris, including round trip and four-star hotel, has jumped from 1,800 to 2,070 reals.

For those already on holiday abroad, the new monetary policy means their credit card purchases will now cost up to 23 per cent more than they had planned.

Leading financial research centres are already predicting an inflation rate of between six and seven per cent for 1999, provided there are no more devaluation surprises.

Before the announcement Brazil's inflation rate this year was forecast at between zero and two per cent.

# Generals on front line of Israeli politics

By Howard Goller Reuters

OLD SOLDIERS never die in Israel. They just enter politics.

As the May 17 election approaches two former army chiefs pose the greatest challenge to Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, himself a retired captain and former commando who never misses a chance to mention his own security credentials.

Generals may succeed at national politics elsewhere - World War II supreme commander for Allied forces in Europe, Dwight Eisenhower, was U.S. president from 1953-61.

But few, if any. Western democracies have so many, so often on the front lines of public life as Israel. Ten of Israel's 15 army chiefs have

been politically active. Brigadier-generals and more senior ranks feature prominently in Israeli cabinets. One former army chief, Yitzhak Rabin, was Labour party prime minister twice — from 1974-

77 and 1992-95. The ex-army chiefs challenging 49year-old Netanyahu are Labour's Ehud Barak, 56, and self-styled centrist Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, 54, Both are protégés of Rabin, the warriorturned-peacemaker assassinated in 1995 for his accords with the Pales-

After hanging up their uniforms, generals find their way into political life naturally in a country obsessed with security. In the face of hostile Arab neighbours, the army ranks as Israel's most trusted institution in

opinion polls. Despite treaties with neighbouring Egypt and Jordan and interim peace deals with the Palestinians, Israeli voters still rate security as the main

issue in election campaigns. "It's on our hard disk," said Public

Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, a hero of Israel's 1973 war with Syria on the Golan Heights who entered politics in 1992 after retiring as a brigadier-general with 28 years

in the army. The generals are drawn to politics left and right.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, both former generals, are members of Netanyahu's rightist Likud party. On Wednesday, former deputy army chief Matan Vilnai joined Barak's left-centre Labour

Not all Israelis are happy that voters keep electing former commanders. Columnist Že'ev Chafets complained in the Jerusalem Report magazine in August that most of the old soldiers had proven themselves unfit for public office.

Under the headline "The Wrong Stuff," he wrote that instead of encouraging generals to enter polities, Israelis should urge them to heed the advice of the late U.S. General Douglas MacArthur in 1951 and just fade away.

Of the 12 political generals cited in the column. Rabin alone redeemed himself and became a great prime minister, Chafets said — and that only after a failed first term 15 years earlier and a generation of civilian experience.

Israeli politicians, even non-generals, make a name for themselves with security.

Netanyahu — brother of a hero killed in the 1976 rescue of hijacked Israelis at Entebbe in Uganda - was Israel's anti-terrorism mouthpiece at the United Nations in the 1980s and wrote books about it.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres, a Nobel peace laureate, is widely regarded as having gained nuclear capabilities for Israel by procuring the secret Dimona reactor from France. He was defence minister for the Entebbe raid.

Since most Israelis serve in the compulsory army and the military is constantly in the news, generals are household names. Leading military men are regarded as having clean hands in a country where politics is a dirty game.

The public perceives them as people at the peak of their ability who touched the heart of the country's existence, on the most existential questions and ran the biggest, most complicated system budgetarily." said Shevach Weiss, a political science professor and former speaker of Israel's parliament.

The generals say the army prepares them for the challenge of running the country. Army brass spend years briefing cubinet ministers on security at weekly meetings, conduct peace talks with the Arabs and give interviews to the media.

They bring a broad view to politics. They have dealt in intelligence with an eye on the world, on the region," Kahalani told Reuters in an interview, "The army enables you to analyse the enemy, the arena — to analyse all the existing means." Not generals-turned-statesmen find the transition an easy one. Soldiers need the backing of a single commander for a given task but politicians need voters. Former generals must also adapt to not always getting their way.

Israeli generals are far from old soldiers when they retire to enter polities - Rabin was 46, Kahalani 47, Mordechai 51, Barak 53 and Lipkin-Shahak 54.

With years ahead of them, a solid academic background and hefty military pensions, ex-army chiefs can



Netanyahu on the campaign trail (Reuters photo)

afford to camble on a political

Having rubbed shoulders with politicians for so many years, they may also feel they can do no worse.

"I was, you know, very intimately acquainted with the politics of government, at least in regard to security and foreign affairs," Barak told Reuters in an interview last year, a few months after taking over the

Labour party. "I was talking during cabinet meetings so they (other politicians) had a sense that I could swim without major disturbances among these sharks without losing a sense of direction and confidence." Defying militaristic stereotypes. Israeli generals have long taken the lead in peacemaking with the Arabs. Perhaps the two most moderate cabinet ministers in Netanyahu's own government are former generals Kaha-Jani and Mordechai.

Rabin, army chief during the 1967 Six-Day War in which Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan, was the first prime minister to cede West Bank land - under a 1993 peace deal with the Palestinians. The next year he signed a treaty with Jor-

Two architects of the first Israeli-Arab peace treaty signed with Egypt in 1979 were soldiers-turned-politicians Ezer Weizman and Moshe Davan.

Dayan, defence minister in the 1967 war, is an icon of his era remembered for his bald head and black eve-patch. Weizman, a former air force commander and deputy army chief under Rabin, has been Israel's president since 1993.

One of the most controversial of Israel's former generals is Sharon, a war hero forced to quit as defence minister after leading Israel into its ill-fated 1982 Lebanon invasion.

A state inquiry found him indirectly responsible for allowing the massacre of Palestinian refugees by Christian militiamen. Yet now as foreign minister, he says a Palestinian state, albeit of limited sovereignty, is a matter of time.

Military people are for the most part pragmatic, Kahalani said, and that includes most former generals from Sharon on the right of the political spectrum to Barak on the left.

"The army moderates us." Kahalani said. "You cannot be an extremist. You fought and you struggled. you know the reality.

# The Saturday Crossword

**HUMAN GEOGRAPHY** By Bill Swain, New Port Richey, Florida

ACROSS
1 H.S. subj.
4 Quarters
9 "Two Women'
Sophia
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Connelly
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21 Sign of spring?
22 Shaq or Tahum
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27 Shamir and Rabin
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Take out 45 Deviate 46 Stream sources 48 Shaded area 52 Chemical suffix

53 Mom's sisters 54 Land of Los Angeles? 55 Author of "The

56 Grp. of Sampras, Agassi, et al. 57 Home runs, e.g. 58 Commit a gatf 60 Betting guide 61 Wharton School deg. 62 Grace closings

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72 Smithy, at times 73 Horse morsel 77 Seethe 78 Sword cases 80 Highland miss 81 Nucleus of 82 Spanish couple? 85 Privileged lew 86 Sugar quantity 87 Heavy imbiber 88 One: pret. 89 Highly spiced stew 90 Spherical bodies 91 Dispose of by deception 95 Jason's objective 97 James Mentil or 98 Trump namer 99 Seneca, Cayuga,

et al.
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Mary Lou 17 Baez song about a singer 18 Crafty to the max 24 Tighter 26 Start of a path? 28 Make over 31 Card-game

displays 32 Classic Preminge 33 Suffix for 36 Pulsations 37 Mission:

Impossible character 39 Post and 40 Guard 41 Stay with the pack 42 Repudiation 44 Let loose 46 Space telescope 47 Pace of music

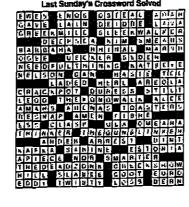
49 Type of rocker 50 Broadcasting 51 Repopulate 53 Manne extensi 61 Poter Pan and Eton 82 Army bag 83 Surling the web 84 Brown shade 86 Whitecaps 87 Sweet-smelling 51 Repopulate 53 Manne extension? 55 Felt one's way 59 Pot roast ingredient 62 Southwest

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## farmers turn to pot Lebanese

By Jacques Lhuillery

Agence France Presse

FARMERS IN Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, disappointed at unfulfilled U.N. promises to provide programs for alternative crops, have reverted to the lucrative age-old business of growing hashish.

"It is this or famine. From 1992 until 1997, I agreed to play the game, but enough is enough," said Abu Ali, a bearded 34-year-old larmer.

The Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon was a drug haven during the 1975-1990 civil war, with cannabis and opium poppy farmers generating annual returns of at least 500 million dollars.

But in 1992, Lebanese armed forces and Syrian troops in Lebanon bowed to U.S. pressure and launched a campaign to eradicate the once-flourishing drug business.

Thousands of small farmers were forced to halt drug farming, a tradition dating back thousands of years. Even the porticos at the Roman temple of Bacchus in the ancient city of Baalbek are sculpted with wheat ears, grapes... and poppies.

"Since the end of the war, things have gone very bad. I was patient. but it is impossible to continue like this and I know dozens who like myself have decided to take the risk and revert back" to drug cultivation. Abu Ali said.

"I once had cars, a house, and my

children had food and went to school. I used to make at least \$25,000 each year," said Abu Ali, who had more than six acres of cannabis fields before halting cultivation in 1992.

Two years ago. Abu Ali went back to growing the drug on small scattered fields over a mountainous area of less than half an acre, away from Lebanese army scrutiny. Last year, he earned \$10,000 from

a harvest of seven kilos of hashish. A foreign drugs expert told AFP that small fields were being cultivated on mountain crests across the Bekau, particularly in the north-

eastern Bekau-Hermel district. When farmers started back growing hashish in June 1997, a senior Baalbek municipal official summoned village mayors to warn them against returning to illegal activities, and acres of Indian hemp were

destroyed. Misery is widespread, close to leading to famine. I know a family of six people in a hamlet that has only 300 kilos of tobacco to sell in order to survive the harsh winters in the region," said one agricultural

But international pledges, mainly by the United Nations Development Program, to help finance alternative crops programs remain largely untulfilled.

"This is a lush soil, we can have quality plantations, but there are no funds and the people at the UNDP do not even go to the fields. What can you do with a \$1,000 loan that you have to start paying back in three months?" the expert said.

## 'I bought my house with hashish money'

At harvest time, Abu Ali leads a squad of farmers on foot to the heights, "We are fully-armed with rocket-propelled grenades. M16 rifles and Kalashnikov and Dushka machineguns."

Despite occasional shootouts. nothing scares off Abu Ali: "It is

this or death." But another former hashish grower, Samer, remains reluctant to

resume the practice. "I have the seeds, but my wife is against it, she is very scared," he

"During the war, there were bombings but there was also a lot of money. I bought my house with hashish money. For six years, the Lebanese government did nothing." But Samer said switching to non-

subsidised tobacco and potato cultivation cost him \$20,000 in 1998 "If I don't have a choice, I'll start

again, and I'll be doing it for them," he said, pointing to photographs of his two children.

# Soros, Sakakibara and Mahathir see dangers in 'free market fundamentalism'

PARIS (R) — George Soros, the hedge fund head who made his fortune on the financial markets, said Thursday that an "asset bubble" in countries like the United States was the next major threat to an already shaky world econo-

Soros said financial crisis over the past two years had hurt the emerging market economies while bringing major gains such as low commodity and import prices and negligable inflation to the established capitalist economies.

"So far the crisis has affected the periphery of the capitalist system negatively and the centre positively," the billionaire Hungarian-American financier

"Today American consumers are...spending more than they are earning. This is a wonderful world but it cannot last forever." he said via satellite link to a conference on the prospects for the global economy.

"I see the development of an asset bubble as the next major threat to the system." he said, pointing to the abrupt collapse in property and asset prices in Japan in the early 1990s, which has left the world's second largest economy fighting to

pull out of recession. Soros said that the instability and turmoil which battered economies across Asia over the last two years before striking Russia in August and swirling on to Latin America illustrated the dangers of "free market fundamentalism."

economy changed dramatically in the past 40 years, with the end of capital controls creating a globalised market which operated without any supra-national political guidance.

"You have political systems which are national financial markets which are global." Soros

Cross-border financial organisations set up after World War II, like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), were no longer suited to the times and the IMF should be turned from a crisis-fighter into a crisis prevention agency, Soros said.

Countries currently turned to the IMF for help when they were already in trouble. The IMF should be allowed to act like an international central bank, with a preemptive say on economic policy in those countries which could ultimately turn to it as a lender of last resort, he said.

Sound economic policies were fundamental but there were also cases where the balance tipped in favour of lenders and against indebted countries which were in fact pursuing the right economic policy, he said.

The free market ideology did not work without guid-

"Communism was said to have a scientific basis, with Marx. (Free) market fundamentalism also has a supposedly scientific basis. I think it is false." he said, adding the belief that markets were perfect was a "false and dangerous ideology."
In Tokyo, Japan's top financial diplomat Eisuke Sakakibara warned Friday that without reform of the international finance system, the world risked a major financial meltdown.

"I hope that in the next 10 to 20 years we could avoid both depressions and war, but there is a definite risk of world financial collapse. For that reason, reform of the international financial architecture is so important," he told a luncheon gathering with foreign

Sakakibara said he was not preaching against market forces or market mechanisms but was against a U.S.-led "market fundamentalism," where he said market forces tended to be left unchecked without question.

In particular he attacked the IMF's policy prescriptions for countries in financial turmoil, saying that, for example, the imposition of high interest rates in Indonesia had not been a good idea.

Crisis after crisis could result in a major meltdown of the world financial system, he said, but added that he thought such a meltdown could be avoided. To that end, a mechanism to stabilise financial markets was needed, he said.

He also challenged economists that say currency depreciation would eventually restore market equilibrium in crisis-hit nations and said that in many cases, such a move had led a freefall in the exchange

observe what will happen to Brazil in the coming weeks," he added.

Brazil, plunged into crisis by a huge loss in investor confidence over worries about its fiscal reform plans, announced on Monday that it would float its currency. As of Thursday, the real had dived 30 per cent since last week.

Sakakibara, Japan's vice finance minister for international affairs. also said floating an exchange rate in a crisis could lead to a collapse of foreign exchange transactions and the same applied to letting interest rates rise to defend exchange rates.

His speech followed one by Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in December where Miyazawa called for managed flexibility between the yen, the euro and the U.S. dollar, which has been interpreted by some as suggesting currency target zones.

But Sakakibara said Japan did not necessarily support the idea.

We will certainly discuss this...but at this moment our position is not that of support for target zones," he said.

Sakakibara said authorities needed to approach markets with the aim of enhancing competition and not the promotion of unlimited freedom.

"Global capitalism needs to be restrained in its crossborder transactions, be it through disclosure, supervisory and prudential regulations, or outright con-

He called for "systemic diversity" in the world's of savings. Mahathir also warned of financial system that

respected social and political differences. globalisation. Sakakibara also predicted that what he called the regime of laissez faire or fundamentalism market dominated by the United States in the 1980s and 1990s would not continue acquisitions. into the 21st century.

U.S. dominance, political and economic, was declining, he said, citing the unification of Europe and instability in global capital-

But he acknowledged that a waning of U.S. influence could reduce the degree of coordination between nations that currently exists.

In Kuala Lumpur, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad urged Malaysians Friday to get ready for a world depression and face the challenges of globalisation by being more self-reliant and cautious to new ideas.

"When the bubble bursts. we cannot help but be affected. So our problems are far from over," he told a dinner marking the 50th anniversary of American International Assurance Co. Ltd. (AIA).

"We must be prepared for possible worldwide deflation. They say it would not happen. But they have been wrong many times before. And they can be wrong again." he said.

'Since there is a high possibility of a worldwide depression affecting us in the future, we must insure against it." he added. urging Malvasians to maintain their relatively high level

other challenges such as Malaysians were not preparing for related problems — such as the crearion of huge banks, manufacturers and utlities through global mergers and

Their intention is to monopolise the field that they are in," he said, calling for regulations to prevent smaller companies in developing countries from being "swallowed up" and "sat upon and squashed" in the process.

"We should welcome globalisation but we must ensure it will not be open to abuse." Mahathir said. "In this very challenging 'fie de siecle' environment. Malaysians must learn to rely more and more on themselves. We must be cautious when accepting something new as proposed by others."

Mahathir said global giants seemed to be preparing for a world invasion, for worldwide monopolies, for economic hegemony." accusing them of using the IMF to "prise open our markets to pick up things on the cheap."

"Don't acceuse us of cronyism if we try to protect our people from these predatory giants, he added. We do not fight for independence only to be trampled under and made worker bees to foreign

the real. "There is intention of

intervening and I am unaware

of any intention in that

respect." said Altamir Lopes,

the head of its economics

spinshed the real's slide

across their front pages and

questioned the central bank's

decision not to pump dollars

The risk is that the central

bank transforms a squeeze in

liquidity into a stimulus to

run for dollars and a disas-

trous and exaggerated deval-

uation of the real," the Folha

de S. Paulo said in its lead

department.

Brazil's

into the market.

editorial.

# Standard and Poor's Long way to go for crisis-hit Asia

HONG KONG (AFP) — Financial reforms in Asia are starting to bear fruit, but much still remains to be done to extricate the region from crisis and win back investors, credit assessor Standard and Poor's (S and P's) said Thursday.

"We have finally started to see the benefits of governmental reforms in some countries, but a lot more work is needed to get these banking systems back on track," the U.S.-based agency's head Ernest Napier said.

"We've had one more year for the banks to identify the extent of their bad loans, and I think most of them are pretty much on top of this situation," he told a news conference here.

"What they have to do now is to find ways in which they can acelerate the disposal of problem loans, and that's going to require a lot of outside funding, either from the markets, from the government, or from other sources," he said.

In countries where the reform process has yet to gather momentum "the recovery process will be very protracted." warned S and P's managing director in Asia, Cecile Saavedra.

"We expect that investor confidence in the Asian region will return sooner if international investors recognise the commitment to reforms is proceeding." she told the news conference.

Napier called for consolidation among Asia's troubled banks, saying some had only "reluctantly gone ahead" last year with mergers to stay alive.

"But I think more banks are going to come to the conclusion that this is the only reasonable alternative." he

said. "Obviously mergers between two weak banks isn't necessarily the panacea for saving the banking sector. I think governments are going to step in more often as they realise that the banks can't do it by themselves; they need more government support, and the regulators are going to increasingly dictate the terms of bank

THE BETTER HALF,

GIASBERGEN

mergers," he added. Robert Richards, Standard and Poor's managing director for corporate finance in Asia warned the region to steer clear of cosy relationships between banks and companies which he support te.

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Јарап. "For creditors, better objective analysis must replace reputation and relationship-based credit decisions," he said.

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The outlook for infrastructure development in the region remains mixed reflecting the economic situation in the countries concerned. said Paul Coughlin, head of infrastructure finance in Asia for the agency.

"While Thailand and (South) Korea are showing signs of revival Indonesia remains fragile," he said.

"Problems in the Japanese banking sector will continue to have a negative impact as it withdraws credit from the region.Indications are that China's slowdown is bottoming out though liquidity difficulties for the Chinese investment trusts and 'red-chip' companies should persist." Coughlin said.

The reform drives an Thailand and South Korea, which is trying to slim down the bloomed business empires of its top conglomerates er chaebol, were headed in the right direction.

"Korea has followed a bold reform programme, and the progress been encouraging. Nevertheless, concrete exdence of chachol agreed to last year, has not

materialised." he said "In Thailand, meanwhile, some steps toward stabilising the banking sector have appeared, but we still have not seen meaningful improvement in key economic indicators. For both countries, and indeed for many other economies in Asia, clear commitments to reform - backed up by measurable results — are pre-requisites for winning back skittish investors,

By Glasbergen

he concluded:

### Brazil's currency slide sparks worldwide woes SAO PAULO (R) — Brazil closed 3.1 per cent lower on combined with rumours of victim Russia, will have central bank in the money market decide the value of

ain on Friday as the value of its newly floated currency fell precipitously and fuelled fears of domino-like devaluations from Latin America to Asia.

Neighbouring Argentina moved quickly to stem contagion with a surprise announcement late on Thursday that it was proposing a radical monetary treaty with the United States to adopt the dollar and eliminate all risk of a devaluation like Brazil's.

spotlight on Hong Kong. a U.S. dollar peg, and on China. Hong Kong stocks attacks on the Hong Kong dollar, analysts said.

Uncertainty over Brazil the world's eighth largest economy - snowballed after the real tumbled 7.6 per cent on Thursday to an all-time low of 1.72 per dollar, stretching the loss to almost 30 per cent since the country abandoned its strong-currency policy 10 days ago.

Dollars outflows, which forced Brazil to free float the

had world markets on red Brazil's currency woes and deep losses in some funds problems paying its debts, market at 33 per cent. with the real's slide left Latin American stock markets in tatters and the U.S. market trembling.

> "The key factor to my mind is the central bank has to step up to the plate and slow things down," said Alan Ruskin, head of research at the 4Cast consulting firm in New York. "If the currency continues to devalue at a rate anything like what we've seen lately, inflation could pick up sharply, forcing interest rates even higher." he

Higher rates fuel speculation that Brazil, like the last emerging market currency

**Peanuts** 

"What do

dogs think about?"5he

wondered.

raising the specter of a potential restructuring of domestic "Brazil's sovereign credit-

worthiness has taken a turn for the worse." wrote Carl Ross, analyst at Bear Stearns & Co. The government's own

projections put debt cost at 7.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) assuming an average interest rate of 22 per

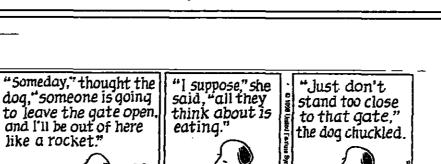
But the central bank's official lending rate is now nearly twice that, at 41 per cent after an increase on Tuesday. although the banks continue to borrow for now from the

Finance Minister Petro Malan returned to Brasilia on Thursday from five days of meetings with officials and bankers in Washington and New York only to find the markets roiling.

His trip was meant to bolster support for Brazil's suddenswitch in exchange poli-

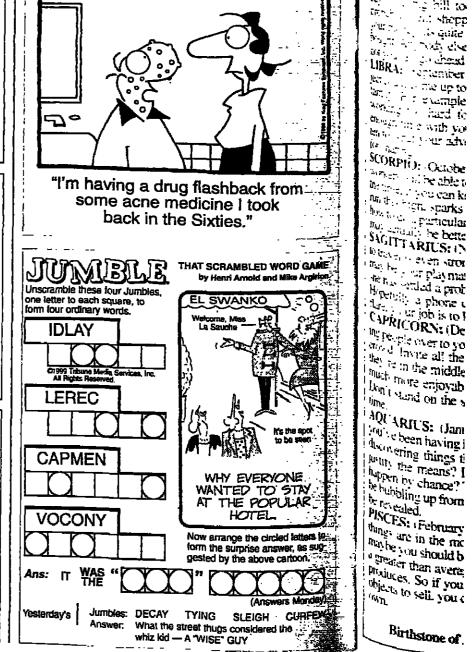
Globo TV said the minister was meeting with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso late into the evening, but refused to comment on government efforts to calm the markets.

The central bank reiterated on Thursday it would let the









That put the speculative currency a week ago, showed no signs of waning and left which like Argentina, runs on the private banks' dollar stock empty. The lack of dollar liquidity THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 1 Swimming hole 5 Britain's Derby 10 Glance over 14 Follow orders 16 Manner of speaking 17 Revenuer's quarry 19 Martial 20 Impose a punishment 21 Metal lure 23 Nutmeg spice 24 Tripod for art 25 Behavior patterns 28 Rotation line 29 Not up to snuff 32 Fill with high spirits 33 Crisscross framework 34 Turquoise 35 Sacred ceremony 36 Sleeveless Fort Washington, MD garments 37 Good fortune 38 Cries of 3 Deion's TAKEATAXI nickname contempt 5 Scruples 6 Winner's 39 Son of Seth 40 Shop 41 Fast airplane, Of sound mind 42 Architect of St. 8 Lyric poem CZAR TOP ETTE Paul's 43 "\_\_ Poppa?" 44 Modular 9 Legendary sea PHOENIX NAVAHOS BOLD PMS TATE creatures 10 Enact 11 illegal spirits 12 Poker pot ENDPOACHETIBBS elements 46 Laugh heartily COB HUSHUP TART 47 Texas border starter 13 Bird abode river 49 Pass through DUOMO ALEXHALEY 18 Roster of 53 Very large 54 Revenuer's candidates 22 Beast of

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SCHAMSLED HENDER

A review of news from the Arabic Press

## Researcher urges immediate action to support textile industry, put it on right track

\*\* ACCORDING TO a fresh study prepared by Thuraya Salti about the lordanian textile industry and its competitiveness, immediate action is necessary to support this sector and place it on the right track as the textile industry is passing through a difficult situation that threaten its future. Salti, who works as a researcher at the Ministry of Planning said the sector should choose between two international trends in manufacturing

The first is to depend on cheap, specialised labour as the case has and continues to be in Korea while the second trend is the Italian example, which focused on designs, and the competitive groups which require high quality and which invested in international trademarks.

Salti said the sector comprises small, medium and large industries noting that most of them, or 1,500 entities are small workshops employing 4,600 labourers or 60 per cent of the overall labour in the textile sector.

Medium industries comprised 39 entities which employed between 200 and 300 labourers or 26 per cent of the total number of textile workers. The remaining 18 per cent or 1.500 workers are employed by the Kingdom's two large textile firms which depend

totally on exports. The researcher indicated that the small and medium size plants depend wholly on the local market as an outlet for their goods noting that marketing is weak among these two groups which operate at 50 per cent of production capacity.

She called for investment in training labourers, preparing designs, concentrating on promotion and meeting the demands quickly so that the textile industry can advance. She stressed that efforts in this respect should take place within seven years before new forces start emerging in the marketing process and before competition sharpens as a result of implementing the

free trade agreement. Meanwhile, the general association of textile plant owners said in a memorandum to the minister of industry and trade that most of the second hand or used clothes imported to the Kingdom are new. The memorandum said if imports of used clothes cannot be stopped, at least the imported goods should be verified to the used clothes and not new.

The general association said the textile sector in Jordan is facing big problems in the areas of marketing and exporting to Iraq and the Palestinian territories because of the Israeli barriers. Further, the sector does not benefit much of the trade protocols and economic agreements with friendly countries, the memorandum said.

It pointed out also that the textile sector faces big problems in dealings with the civil and military consumer corporation which require a bank guarantee and which returns the unsold goods to the manufacturers after a period of five years (Al Dustour).

## King's return seen reflecting positively on the stock market

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN - Turnover of shares at the Amman Financial Market declined in the past week as a result of the 'Eid Al Fitt holidays that marked the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan, a broker said Friday.

Naim Nageeb said that the return of His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday after a six-month absence to undergo chemotherapy would reflect positively on the stock market.

"His Majesty's return, coupled with positive signs about primary results of the listed companies on the stock market, will push the share prices up in the coming few days," Nageeb told the Jordan Times.

information obtained from some companies shows that the pharmaceutical and mining firms have recorded good results in the past year and that will bring good news to the stock market," he

The weekly bulletin showed that turnover amounted to JD1.1 million compared to JD8.9 million in the previous week. The price index recorded in the past week was 176.03 points.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturing ranked first

among the listed firms with a turnover amounting to JD247,827 followed by the Arab Phosphate Mining with a turnover JD185,685.

The industrial sector won the lion's share with JD714.124 followed by the banking sector which registered a turnover of JD241,848.

Nageeb said that banks' share prices were "stable" amid weak demand for these shares.

The weekly bulletin showed that the Housing Bank ranked first among the nine banks whose shares changed hands in the stock market with a turnover amounting to JD95,285.

He added that investors' "appetite" for banks shares will depend on the 1998 results "which are expected to appear in the next few weeks."

The parallel market share amounted to JD47,014, where the bulk of this figure was recorded by the Export and Financing Bank and Union Tobacco.

# Lebanon eyes shipping business with Gulf

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon is Lebanon to the Gulf in redrawing its transport plans in anticipation of a radical increase in business with the Gulf, Transport Minister Najib Mikati told Reuters in an interview Friday.

"We want to restore Beirut as the gate for transit shipments in the Middle East," said Mikati, who assumed the transport and public works portfolios in the government formed last month by Prime Minister Selim Hoss

"A boost in the container activity in Beirut is encouraging us to plan a railway. linking Lebanon to Dubai via Syria," he added without elaborating. A Middle East rail network built by Western colonial powers earlier this century is now largely abandoned.

At present containers are carried by truck from around four days compared to seven days by ships that go through the Suez Canal. Shipping lines began to

show more interest in Lebanon after a consortium including Dubai Port Authority won a \$60 million concession late last year to market and upgrade Beirut port, including adding a new container ter-

The project is scheduled to come on stream in 2000. The Dubai Port Authority will handle the container business until the year

minal.

Mikati expects the number of containers heading to Dubar via Beirut to rise to one million in 2001 from around 280,000 at present.

The professionals from Dubai have the expertise and marketing capability. They can also convince

companies they already deal with to ship through Beirut," he told Reuters.

The minister said the project will boost Beirut port's revenue, which was around \$75 million in 1998.

The Lebanese government receives 70 per cent of the revenue under the new arrangement with the Group for Developing Lebanese Harbours. The Beirut port charges around \$270 on each container, including \$85 for unloading.

The bulk of goods arriving in Lebanon enter at Beirut port, which handled 2.8 million tonnes of cargo in the first half of 1998. compared to 5.8 million tonnes for all of 1997 and 6.7 million in 1996.

Lebanon has three smaller ports in Sidon, Tripoli and

# Gold unlikely to regain price glitter in short-term

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) ishing," the GFMS report combined with a large - Gold is unlikely to retain its former glitter in terms of price this year, according to commodity research company Gold Fields Mineral Services (GFMS) in a report released this month.

The assessment follows a disappointing 1998 in which the precious metal traded at an average of \$294 an ounce, its lowest level for 20 years.

"That gold performed so poorly was ascribed to the fact it was increasingly behaving like any other commodity, and that its role as a hedge against inflation and uncertainty was dimin-

said of gold's 1998 performance. London-based

GFMS said gold was expected to remain in a \$270-\$310 an ounce band in the first half of 1999. "We can envisage cir-

cumstances which could see gold break above \$310, although we do not think them particularly probable," Managing Director Philip Klapwijk said.

"For instance, a serious threat to global stability. possibly triggered by a collapse in world stock markets - arguably they a sharp fall in demand have far more downside and potential for net suppotential than upside -

fall in the dollar, could stimulate buying interest from individual investors as well as from the funds," he added.

"We believe that unless there is an important shift in producer attitudes to the price, hedging will act to constrain any sustained break-out above \$310," Klapwijk empha-

GFMS said there was a possibility of further devaluations in major consuming countries like India and China, causing ply from scrap.

# HOROSCORE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc. ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Looks like you're going to

make points with somebody who thinks you're pretty cute. But if you get too cocky you could clash with an older person. That would be uncomfortable for everybody, so try to keep it low key. You don't really have to defend your turf. Everybody can see that you're in charge, so treat others with

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You might still be feeling a little antsy. Something needs to be done, and you've put it off long enough. This most likely has to do with your home. You have a few things in mind that you'd like to change. You're getting advice from friends, who know how to do what

you're about to attempt. Get them to help you with it. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your energy level is huge again today. Whatever anybody comes up with, you'll be game to give it a go, and you'll probably be successful. When you get like this, you're amazing - agile, vivacious and charming. You might have a tendency to dance a little too close to the edge, though. Don't overdo it. Take safety pre-

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) Looks like you're in the mood to take a drive, but your partner has other plans for you, such as a household project. If you're going to make your escape, do it early. Then all you have to do is plan out your schedule so that most of the hard stuff is done by the time you get back home, Just kidding! You're always eager to help. LEO: (July 23 to August 22) Your buddies want you to come and play, but somebody else wants you to stay home and take care of important matters. How important can they be? If they've gone this long, they can go a little longer. Do your best to keep the worry wart happy and make an appointment

to mend fences later. VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You might be able to pay off a big bill today. That's amazing, considering you probably went shopping vesterday. You're so careful with your money, its quite possible you can afford everything you bought. Anybody else would have gone deeply into debt, but

not you. So go ahead and write the check. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) A controversial subject could come up today, concerning money, work, home or family. For example, somebody might imply that you're working too hard for too little money, and not spending enough time with your family. Don't get defensive. Just listen to what your adversary has to say, and thank him or her

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) You and your coworkers will be able to do even the most awesome task in half the time, if you can keep from bickering. When energy levels run this high, sparks can fly. If there's a disagreement about how to do a particular job, compromise. Someone else's ideas may actually be better than yours, so at least consider them. SAGTITARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The urge to travel is even stronger today. What are you waiting for? It may be your playmate who's stalling. Be patient. Once he or she has settled a problem at home, you'll be off and running. Hopefully a phone call will be enough to do it. If tempers

flare, your job is to keep things as light as possible. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) If you're having people over to your house tonight, be prepared for a noisy crowd. Invite all the neighbours so they won't complain. If they're in the middle of the boisterous activity, they'll find it much more enjoyable. The same goes for you, by the way. Don't stand on the sidelines. Get involved and have a great

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) The insights you've been having lately are getting to the truth. You may be discovering things that are slightly disturbing. Do the ends Justify the means? Is everything logical or do some things happen by chance? These and other interesting subjects will be bubbling up from your subconscious as secrets continue to

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) People will like pretty things are in the mood to buy today. If you're not an artist, maybe you should be. Pisces is a very creative sign. You have a greater than average sensitivity to colour and the energy it produces. So if you don't have anybody else's beautiful are objects to sell, you could start by whipping up a few of your

Birthstone of January: Garnet - Rose Quartz

## Dead Sea pollution put down to natural causes

els of an ozone-destroying chemical found in the atmosphere around the Dead Sea cannot be blamed on local chemical works, a team of researchers from Israel and

iermany has discovered. The factories, which produce bromine compounds and other chemicals from Dead Sea salt, have been linked with high levels of bromine oxide (BrO), a potent ozone-depleter. But the scientists say that the chemical is produced in a natural reaction in the salt pans around the edge of the

landlocked sea. Jordanian and Israeli chemical firms will welcome the conclusion, but the research does not completely absolve humans; the salt pans are growing ever larger as more freshwater is removed from the River Jordan before it reaches the Dead Sca.

The researchers made their discovery in a mobile laboratory parked on a dam between the northern and southern sections of the sea. with open water to the north and salt puns to the south. Levels of BrO were at their

AMMAN (J.T.) - High lev- highest - and ozone levels were lowest --- when the wind was blowing from the south. Although there are chemi-

cal works south of the dam, the researchers rule them out Fluctuations in BrO levels do not correspond with levels of other industrial pollutants from the factories, they point out. The distribution of the BrO also suggests that it originates over a wide area rather than at localised points.

BrO is probably produced

by oxidation of salts on the surface of the pans, the researchers say, but the exact mechanism remains a mystery. Geochemists know that the chemical is also released from the surface of freezing seawater in the Arctic. Whether the same bromine release processes as in the Arctic occur at the Dead Sea is not clear," the team writes.

Nevertheless. researchers say the discovery kills the hypothesis that BrO is only released from sea salt under freezing conditions. Daytime temperatures at the Dead Sea typically reach 40°C.

## Delta reports record 1998 profits

NEW YORK (AFP) - Delta Air Lines has said it posted a \$190 million profit for the fourth quarter, bringing its fullyear earnings for 1998 to a record \$1.078 billion. Rival airline Northwest

meanwhile said it lost \$181 million in the three-month period ending Dec. 31. Delta profits, amounting to \$1.29 per share for the quarter.

were up slightly from the same period a year earlier at \$1.20 per share of \$190 million. Revenues were \$3,448 billion, unchanged from a year ago. For all of 1998, Delta's profits were up 15.4 per cent and sales were up 3.2 per cent to

\$14.4 billion. Northwest said its quarterly earnings were impacted by a strike that cost an estimted \$300 million. The results also included a

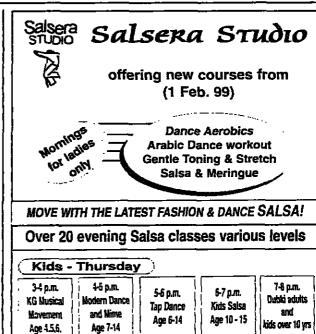
charge of \$66 million to retire seven Boeing 747s and to renegotiate its labour agreement. For all of 1998, nonhwest lost \$286 million, including

special charges. Revenues for the quarterly were \$2.2 billion and \$10.2 biltion for all of 1998, both figures off about 11 per cent.

## Lego to shed 1,000 jobs

COPENHAGEN (AFP) -Lego, which makes plastic building bricks for children, is to shed up to 1,000 jobs or 10 per cent of jobs in its business throughout the world, director Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen said in the internal company newspaper Inform.He also said that Lego had to improve its annual results by one billion knoner (134 million euros) by slim-

operations.Restructuring would affect mainly people involved in sales, marketing and in the finance department. The company is to publish results in April which are expected to show the first loss since the 1930s. The group employs 10,000 people of whom 1,000 work in Denmark.



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# Rafter out as seeds blown away at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) -U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter and five other seeds were blown away on a blustery day at the Australian Open tennis championhips here Friday.

Rafter's hopes of becoming the first Australian champion since Mark Edmondson in 1976 were dashed by the strong Swedish forehand of Thomas Enqvist.

Swedish players like Melbourne they have contested seven of the last 16 finals -and Enqvist shortened his odds with a hugely impressive display, winning in four sets.

But he now comes up against the power-serving of Mark Philippoussis, the 14th seeded Australian.

Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna. the women's third seed, Tim Henman, the men's No. 6, Spanish ninth seed Conchita Martinez, 15th seed Natasha Zvereva of Belarus and ninth men's seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands were all swept away.

Spain's Maria Antonia Sanchez Lorenzo, the World No. 65, who had never progressed beyond the second round of a Grand Slam, humiliated Novotna 6-3, 6-0 in 51 minutes.

Henman's softball tactics against Marc Rosset backfired totally as the Swiss rolled him out in straight sets. The departure of Rafter, Henman and Krajicek meant only five men's seeds

were left in the tournament and No. 5 Andre Agassi of the United States was the highest ranked player left. South African Wayne Ferreira came

from two sets down to dump Krajicek out of the tournament in the night Ferreira, a semi-finalist here seven

years ago, clawed back from losing the opening two sets in tiebreakers to oust the former Wimbledon champion, 6-7 (1/7), 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 in three hours 19 minutes and reach the last 16 in the tournament. Ferreira now plays the Slovak

Republic's seventh seed Karol Kucera in the fourth round on Sunday.

Emilie Loit, ranked 95th in the world. knocked Martinez out 7-5, 6-1 and now plays another 19-year-old and fellow Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo in the



Thomas Enqvist of Sweden reacts near the end of his victory by 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6over Australian Patrick Rafter at the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, (AP photo)

fourth round.

Novotna was at a loss for words after her defeat to Spain's Sanchez Lorenzo. "I don't know what went wrong. I'm in a state of shock," said the 30-year-old

who choked at two Wimbledon finals before winning at the third attempt last

"It was a nightmare, a total disaster. I couldn't put the ball over the net. I was horrible and I have no explanation whatsoever." she added.

Novotna, a finalist here in 1991, when she lost to Monica Seles, but an earlyround loser on three of her next four attempts, had missed the Australian Open in the past three years because she felt the season was too demanding.

But while Novotna was left ruing her loss of form, hometown boy Philippoussis was giving his fans something to cheer about with a disciplined performance to advance to the last 16.

Philippoussis, whose new girlfriend has clamped down on his night clubbing and cut out junk food, looked meaner and tougher as he dug in to edge Slovak Jan Kroslak, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, in just under two hours on centre court to set up a mouthwatering battle with Sweden's Enqvist.

Philippoussis or Enqvist could face Karol Kucera of Slovakia in the semi-

The 24-year-old Kucera tarned Marat Safin 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 as the Russian teenager lost control in the windy conditions.

Safin could do little right against the groundstrokes Friday. Norwegian Christian Ruud was another player who admitted he had made it too easy for his opponent.

Ruud, who beat second seed Alex Corretja of Spain in the previous round, could find no way past the tough little Romanian-born Andrew Ilie of Australia who won 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

"I probably made it a little bit easy for him some times," the Norwegian said afterwards. "If I had hit deeper and heavier he might have had more prob-

Elsewhere it was business as usual for Venus Williams, who swept into the fourth round after a straight sets win over Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir. 18-year-old fifth-seeded Californian packed too much punch for

Davenport in the quarter-finals, if she overcome's compatriot Chanda Rubin in the next round. Davenport saw off Karina Habsudova



Australia's Mark Philippoussis who is nicknamed "The Scud" thunders down a serve in his 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, win over Jan Kroslak of Slovakia at the Australian Open Tennis Championships, Melbourne, Australia (AP photo):

"I didn't have to work hard," said of Slovakia, who gave her a hard time Williams, who is seeded to meet here last year, in straight sets.

# Kournikova has a classic case of 'choking'

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Anna Kournikova has a classic case of "choking", a leading sports psychologist said Friday.

And the most she can hope for at the Australian Open is to battle on as best she can, take her money and get back on the practice court.

"She choked and she was probably unaware of what was happening," said New South Wales Institute of Sport psychologist John Crampton, explaining that choking was "when your body won't let you do what you want it to do". His comments follow

Kournikova's 31 double faults Thursday, a record at the Australian Open, in a second round match against Japan's Miho Saeki which the Russian eventually won. She has now served 175 dou-

bles in eight matches. That equates to almost five games each match when an opponent isn't even required to make a swing at the ball.

The pin-up girl serves fine in practice and is in reasonable shape in most departments of the game, particularly her awesome forehand.

But when she steps up to serve under pressure, her game falls

"There is no way Kournikova could have got to her level in tennis and gained that ranking with a bad serve," Crampton

He said choking involved tension levels increasing in the upper body, particularly the biceps and triceps, and was common in elite sports.

Surprisingly, he said relaxing was not the way to deal with the problem "because there's too much pressure at that level" but instead to build extra pressure into training sessions so she can learn to cope.

Crampton said the bronzed 17-year-old also had the added pressure of public expectations. mostly because of her stunning

K

TODAY



Anna Kournikova

good looks.

"At that age most people are very self concious, you'd have to be sensitive," he said.

"She's got the looks and when she's playing well she's probably comfortable with that attention but when she's struggling it would make things harder for

"With that much tension you

can do some pretty weird and wonderful things like she's

Crampton said it was possible Koumikova had been practising a new service technique prior to the Australian Open which fell apart once the pressure was on.

"It's often said that the last

thing learned is the first thing

forgotten," he noted.

Kournikova admits the serve has been bothering her since the end of last year, but flippantly pushes aside the dilemma. "If I get upset it's only going

She meets Germany's Andrea Glass in the third round on Saturday with a fourth round clash against seventh seed Mary Pierce on the cards.

to get worse." she said.

## Australian Open diary

MELBOURNE (AFP) Australian Open briefs on

Crack Indian pair Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi have a novel way of expressing their "high-fives" during doubles matches.

The top seeds bump into each other with their chests like warring antelope to celebrate big moments in their matches.

Fans will be seeing more of their on-court pectoral collisions after their second round win over Americans, Doug Flach and Mark Merklein, in their bid to win a Grand Slam

Young Russian Marat Safin won the "dummyspinter" award hands down after his dispirited third round loss to seventh seed Karol Kucera.

Safin's frustrations reached flashpoint when his rocket serve was broken a fourth time and the 18-year-old Muscovite gave a spectacular display of petulance which rendered one of his rackets useless.

He slammed it into the court three times, buckling the frame to gasps from the crowd, and earning a code violation warning from Swedish chair umpire Lars Graff and a subsequent 500 US dollar fine.

Memories of last year's Swiss Air flight which crashed in Nova Scotia cut deep for former Barcelona Olympic gold medallist Marc Rosset.

He was booked on the flight with his coach Pierre Simsolo, but decided at the last-minute to stay and practice instead. He was asked about his

brush with death soon after eliminating British sixth seed Tim Henman from the Australian Open "I have nothing to say about

about that. That's it," he said." - Should have known better ... Monica Seles, who has yet to lose at the Australian Open,

this... I don't want to talk

went to the movies the other night alone. But it wasn't long before she was recognised and was mobbed by fans. Monica was forced to beat a hasty retreat back to the sanctuary of her

hotel room, muttering never

"I don't go out alone," she says. "I tried that once, boy oh boy, wrong idea. It didn't work and it was a quick turnaround and back to the room."

The Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, are so enraptured by Pete Sampras they considered pulling out of the Australian Open after he decided not to play. Asked who her favourite men's player was, Venus answered "Pete" so quickly the journalist was cut off mid-sentence.

"Serena and I, we absolutely love the way he plays," she said. "We hope one day to be Pete also. One day we might change our name to Pete. It's a great name, it really is, and we know one day we'll be like him.... ummm.

Romanian-born Australian Andrew Ilie wants to let everyone know where his allegiances lie.

After he hammered Christian Rudd on court one, he grabbed an Australian flag and did a lap of honour.

"It was spontaneous," he said. "Every player dreams to play well at home and do well and lives for that moment at the end of the match when the crowd is right behind them. he realises that he's almost reaching for his dreams,"

Bubbly world No 2. Martina Hingis has been spotted happily rollerblading along the picturesque SL Kilda beachside foreshore.

## Drugs ban would not stop Korda taking title



Petr Korda

MELBOURNE (AFP) --- If Petr Korda retains his Australian Open crown he may be able to keep it even if subsequently suspended over his positive drug test. International

Tennis

Federation (ITF) communications manager Alun James confirmed that, if suspended, Korda would automatically be stripped of all ranking points and the \$454,430 in prizemoney he has won since he tested positive to an anabolic steroid Wimbledon last year.

But the fate of any title won in the meantime is not so clear cut.

Korda has not won a title on the ATP Tour since failing his Wimbledon dope test but the possibility of regaining his Open title grows with every match at Melbourne Park where he is now down to the last 16. James said: "The ruling is

that it's up to individual Grand Slams, should there be such a situation, to decide on who receives the titleage.

"It's up to the roumament to decide if Korda still retains the title, the runnerup receives it or it's left vacant."

Crazy (

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The ITF is appealing to the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) against its own independent appeals committee's decision not to impose a suspension on Korda following his positive test for Nandrolone on July 1.

James said any subsequent suspension would take effect from the day it was handed down but Korda would also lose prizemoney, ranking points and titles accumulated

since July.

Korda has so far been stripped of his Wimbledon ranking points and prize money but escaped suspen-sion when the ITF's independent appeals committee ruled there were "exceptional circumstances" in this

The ITF's appeal to CAS will claim the committee misapplied the exceptional circumstances rule.

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3:30, 12:30

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# IOC desperately trying to salvage sullied image

LAUSANNE. Switzerland (AFP) - The first move to salvage the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) sullied image will begin here this weekend with at least mne members expected to be thrown out of the organi-

A report into the Salt Lake Cay scandal will be delivered to the IOC's executive board-on Sunday and the Jong promised house cleaning will begin with the

expulsions. So far 13 names of suspected members have been leaked. Two of those named, Finnish IOC member Pirjo Haegeman and Bashir Mohammad Attarabulsi of Libya resigned this week. Haeggman insisted she was guilty only of being naive, not corruption.

According to a German specialist sports magazine the other 11 are Kim Un Yong (South Korea), Vitaly Smirnov (Russia), Augustin Carlos Arroyo (Ecuador), Jean-Claude Ganga

(Congo), Zein El Abdin Abdel Gadir (Sudan), Anton Geesink (Holland), Louis Guirandou-N'Diaye (Ivory Lamine Keita Coast), Charles Nderitu (Mali). (Kenya), Sergio Santander Fantini (Chile) and David Sikhulumi

Sibandze (Swaziland). Kim, one of the IOC's most powerful members, has angrily denied any wrong doing, claiming he is the victim of a plot to stop him from taking over as presi-

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of Slovakia at £ ratia (AP photo

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dent when Juan Antonio Samaranch retires in 2001.

Smirnov, another senior member, also denies any wrong doing. According to IOC sources both men are unlikely to be expelled. But others, such as Ganga.

will almost certainly be sacked. He made a \$60,000 profit on a Utah land deal arranged by a member of the Salt Lake committee.

The scandal broke late last year when Swiss IOC member Marc Hodler blew the whistle on members selling their votes for cash and gifts. Since then Nagano and

Sydney and Amsterdam have been drawn into the affuir that threatens to bring down Samaranch.

Senior IOC members admit this weekend's expulsions could just be the start. Vice-president

Dick Pound, who headed the sixstrong committee that investigated the 13 members, admitted this week that that influence peddling within the Olympic movement goes back to the early 1980s.

The Montreal lawyer even admitted this week that he had once been offered a million dollars for his vote in a television deal but he declined to give details.

The affair has stunned the 78-year-old Samaranch, who is accused of failing to act when informed about corruption amongst mem-

But the former Spanish diplomat, who took over the presidency in 1980, insists that he has always wanted to reform the IOC.

"I've tried many times to fix the problems but I couldn't. I couldn't do all this five years ago, 10 years ago. I wanted to but the IOC members wouldn't give me the votes I needed to change the system. This could be the right moment to fix the IOC," he said this week.

But his critics inside the IOC insist that he created the climate that allowed corruption to flourish.

Samaranch travels in a style that matches any head of state and the 114 IOC members expect the same demanding the best hotels, first class flights and top restaurants, all paid for by the bidding cities.

"He travels the world like a head of state. Everything has to be the best. It is time the movement became a little less regal and a lot more professional and that will need a new\_president," said one member. But with or without

Samaranch members know the corruption investigations will not end this weekend. There are fears amongst

senior officials that at least one of the expelled members will hit back by trying to bring down others.

Samaranch. "I don't know if they will accept the decision of expulsion or punishment graceful-

It is a worry not lost on

Watching this weekend proceedings will be the

ly," he admitted.



International Olympic Committee (IOC) director general, Francois Carrard, during an IOC press conference at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland on Friday, the day before the key meeting of the committee investigating the Salt Lake City bribery scandal. Carrard announced the resignation of IOC member Bashir Mohammed. (AP photo)

sponsors who have helped turn the Olympics into a multi-billion dollar industry. Publicly the companies. including Coca

McDonalds and Xcrox, have

voiced their continued support to the movement, but they will be wanting tough action from the IOC.

This weekend will reveal how tough they plan to be.

# Norway's Kjus wins World Cup downhill



Norway's Lasse Kjus speeds down the Streif racing track in Kitzbuhel to win men's World Cup downhill, split in two runs on Friday. Second placed his compatriot Kjetil-Andre Aamodt. (AFP photo)

KITZBUHEL, Austria (AFP) - Norway's Lasse Kjus won the men's World Cup downhill, split into two runs, with a combined time of 2min 14.13sec here on Friday. Kjus was 0.18sec ahead of second-placed compatriot Kjetil-Andre Aamodt and 0.46sec in front of Austria's Werner Franz who finished third.

It was the fourth victory of the season for the 28-year-old following downhill successes at Val-d'Isere, France, Gardena, Italy and Wengen in Switzerland, where he also made third place in the slalom to win the combined event.

Kjus however missed the downhill in Bormio, Italy on December 29 because of a flu

He leads the downhill standings and is just 69 points behind overall World Cup leader Hermann Maier, who fell on the second run.

Maier, 17th after the first leg, had a spectacular fall when he lost control of his right ski and eventually ended up in the safety netting.
"It's a shame," Maier said. "I don't know if I will pull out all the stops for Saturday's

downhill with the world championships so close."

# Crazy day as NBA officially opens for business

NEW YORK (AP) ---Everyone was calling it the busiest day in National Basketball Association history, and everyone was probably right.

of league business Thursday had something missing — the signings of many of the biggest free

The job of processing each and every new contract and trade was a slow one-on the first full nonlockout day since June 30, and the expected signings of Antonio McDyess. Vlade Divac, Jerry Stackhouse. Rod Williams, Christian Laettner and Joe Smith were delayed for one reason or another. Several deals went through, including Latrell Sprewell being traded from Golden State to New York, and most of the

teams opened training "It was so unorganised, it was incredible." Miami coach Pat Riley said. "You have to deal with a chaotic. fly-by-the-seat-of-you-pants routine. We had guys with physicals, getting contracts signed. We have to move guys in and out of practice." And it doesn't look like

the chaos will end anytime

next few weeks Tomm Brooks

will be trying to reconcile the

Actually there seem to be

many more faces than that, but

two faces of Mike Tyson.

patient with his opponent.

But against Botha in Las

Vegas another side of Tyson

champion was often tentative,

head hunting throughout the

light and missing widely with

sooping left hooks and over-

hand rights. Tyson was emi-

fight, and if Botha had been a

harder puncher he might have

Teams will have only a few days to practice before beginning exhibition games, and the regular season will begin Feb. 5. Each team will play 50 games in 90 nights. Teams were finally allowed to start signing contracts and finalising transactions at 2 p.m. The league had a full staff of attorneys on hand to process each of the deals, and a few complications arose to slow the process down. There were no apparent hitches in clearing the first deal, a trade sending Sprewell to the New York Knicks for John Starks, Chris Mills and Terry

Cummings. Sprewell brings a tarnished reputation to a team anxious over the public relations risk. He was suspended for 68 games last season and had his contract terminated after he choked and threatened to kill coach P.J. Carlesimo at a Warriors

Just three years ago, when the Knicks traded Anthony Mason to Charlotte, team president Checketts made an issue of saying the team would only bring in solid citizens.

practice.

Sprewell hasn't exactly fit

Indeed, the South African

was winning the bout on all

three judges' scorecards

before he walked into a

tremendous Tyson right hand

that description.

"A lot has happened in my thinking over past 48 hours or so," Checketts said. "For me to make the statement I made about not wanting certain players on our team, I guess I would have to say it's pretty judgmental and self-righteous, and I regret having said those things because it's not fair for me to judge people."

The Knicks reiterated that they were not interested in signing free agent forward Dennis Rodman, who tetired earlier this week and then changed his mind.

He plans to elaborate on his plans Friday night on the "Tonight Show."

Rodman's agent, Dwight Manley, was in Salt Lake City to announce that another of his clients, Karl Malone, would be staying with the Utah Jazz for the rest of his career. McDyess' return

Denver hit a roadblock when he and the Nuggets could not reach a contract agreement that appeared to be a done deal only 24 hours earlier.

Boxing-Trainer looking to reconcile Tyson's personalities



Vlade Divac

## Austrian Renate Goetschl edges Germany's Ertl in super-G

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO. Italy (AP) - Austrian Renate Goetschi flashed down the World Cup super-G run Friday to clinch her third victory of the season.

really fast skis," said the 23year-old Austrian.

Leader of the World Cup downhill standings, Goetschl won back-to-back downhills in Lake Louise, Canada, in November, But she had yet to win a Super-G this season. Goetschl completed the race ... one minute, 13.25 seconds. edging German ace Martina Eril by just four-hundredths of a second.

Goetschl skied agressively down the steep and winding upper portion of the course, but she won the race in the flatter lower portion where she let her skis glide and picked up more speed than her rivals.

Ertl, with 12 career wins, has vet to claim a victory this sea-

France's Regine Cavagnoud. who clinched her first victory in a downhill here Thursday after eight years on the ski circuit, was third.

It was another disappointing day for World Cup overall leader Alexandra Meissnitzer of Austria who finished out of the top-five.

The Austrian, winner of five World Cups this season, hasn't triumphed since Dec. 19 when she was fastest in a downhill to Veysonnaz, Switzerland.

Friday's race was marred by

Catherine Borghi's homitic

The Swiss skier lost her bulance and crushed a few metres (yards) from the finish line and her leg appeared to give out as she twisted and slid down the hill. The 22-year-old screamed with pain as she lay crumpled in the finish area. Medical officials rushed to the scene and

#### for boxing purposes Tyson's flush on the face that ended new trainer will have enough The question is which per-But moments later another had seen the guy doing it for the scheduled 12-round fight on his hands to deal with just sonality Tyson did not throw side of the fighter appeared, two months straight." at 2:59 of the fifth round. two of the fighter's many per-About Tyson's heason's

Tyson looked so bad that sonalities. Brooks, a very cansome people connected with did man, especially considerhim who had been looking ing he works in hoxing, had seriously at a third fight with been telling reporters before Evander Holyfield in lyson looked so sloppy November now say Tyson is against Frans Botha last not nearly on track for that Saturday that Tyson in the gym was working diligently

NEW YORK (R) - In the dept he might have won on

now. Tyson is expected to fight again in late April. An oppoon boxing basies such as comnent has not officially been ing in behind a jab, throwing selected, although German combinations and being Axel Schulz had been mentioned as a possibility. Against Botha that "was not The former heavyweight

the Mike Tyson I had been working with the last couple of months," said Brooks in a teleconference call on Thursday.

You never know which guy is going up the stairs" to enter the ring, said Brooks, referring nently hittable throughout the to the vagaries of working with fighters in general. "It's all on Mike, I can lead the won in the early rounds and if horse to water but I can't make te had not been over-confi-

The confident, unbearable Mike Tyson, with a questionable sense of reality, revealed himself immediately after the fight by saying, "I'm a better fighter than I was against Evander."

the contrite, just happy to be here Tyson: "I need to put on better shows. I'm just happy (Botha) gave me a chance to fight... Brooks, who will begin working with Tyson again in a few weeks, insisted that Tyson's failure to stick to the fight plan he had been working on in the gym was not an example of the former heavyweight champion's lack of discipline.

'It's not so much a lack of discipline. He has to reinstill confidence," said Brooks, who used to train Holyfield, who beat Tyson twice. "Inactivity shakes your con-

fidence," said Brooks, referring to Tyson's 19-month forced layoff after biting off a piece of Holyfield's car in June 1997 and having his license to box revoked. Brooks gave his fighter an

cexecution against Botha, And he graded Botha a B-minus for effort "but an F for getting hit," he said to laughter.

"I think it was a let down," Brooks said about Tyson's performance against Botha. "I

headhunting, he added, "he was trying to prove something to himself and the public. It was not the Mike Tyson I had been working with the last couple of months."

Brooks is not alone in wondering which of Tyson's personalities was appearing in the weeks leading up to the fight and that night against Botha. In one news conference.

Tyson, after calmly answering many questions, suddenly exploded in an obscenityfilled rant that bore no resemblance to the subject at hand. Just a few days before the fight he went off again.

And in the fight itself he was penalised a point for unnry roughness and admitted he had tried to break Botha's arm in a clinch as the first round ended ed in chaos. It took

A-plus for power, but only a security guards and both corners to break the two men up and delayed the start of the second round. "In the heat of the battle

sometimes everything gets thrown out," Brooks said of Tyson's lack of ring discipline.

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Renate Goetschl of Austria raises her skis up in celebration after winning the World Cup women's Super-C in Cortina D'ampezzo on Friday The Tofane Dolomite mountains are seen in background (AP photo)

Borghi was immediately taken pital. Initial reports said Borghi by ambulance to Cortina's hoshad broken her shin bone

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**Elvis Presley** 

Sumerian

songs in Latin and

HELSINKI (R) - A Finnish academic known for record-

ing Elvis Presley songs in

Latin is planning a new

record of eternal hits - this

time in the ancient Sumerian

language. Jukka Ammoodt

told Reuters he intends to

bring out a Sumerian single in

the next few months and an

album in the autumn. "Elvis

would have liked the idea

because the ancient

Sumerians had big parties and

drums and rattles, and the

roots of rock may go back to

man's earliest efforts to get a

grip on life," said Ammondt.

widower wanted

BELTING (R) - A 99-year-

old Chinese widower who

posted a lonely hearts mes-

sage in a local newspaper

looking for a second wife has been swamped with offers,

the semi-official China News Service said. Zhang Kebiao, a ruddy faced author who

looked "only about 80," was

seeking someone to relieve the loneliness and torment after his first spouse died two

years ago, the agency said. "Any woman will do, but I

hope that she understands the

old saying, 'half of woman is man'," said his lonely hearts

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian

businessman has challenged

Alexander Lebed to bring his

foul mouthed criticism to the

Lebed

presidential

challenged to

boxing match

Woman for

99-year-old

# Security Council resumes Iraq discussion, little expected

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - After a week's lapse, the Security Council resumed consultations on Iraq on Friday, trying to forge ahead with proposals to resurrect oversight of Baghdad's weapons programmes while improving the humanitarian situation for Iragis.

Council diplomats, howexpected little progress in the discussions and were resigned heading into the meeting that it would take several more sessions before any consensus was reached.

"I think this is going to be a long process dealing with Iraq and this is another step in that process," said the deputy U.S. ambassador, Peter Burleigh.

The council has four written proposals — from the United States, France, Russia and Canada — and more could come, diplo-

The initiatives were submitted last week, when the council held its first serious of anonymity. discussion about Iraq since the U.S.-British airstrikes in December.

Following the strikes, Baghdad announced it would no longer allow U.N. weapons inspections that, under the U.N. resolutions that ended the Gulf War, were the only way to lift the trade sanctions.

Several council members also came out strongly against trying to resume disarmament work as it had been done, arguing that the airstrikes shattered an inspection programme that hadn't been working for months anyway.

The old way of doing business cannot work now, a Chinese diplomat said Friday. Though China hasn't submitted a proposal of its own, Beijing was studying the proposals and had "no problem," with either the Russian or the French initiatives, the diplomat

said, speaking on condition

Russia and France want to see a lifting of the oil embargo, but with controls

to make sure the money isn't used to rebuild weapons programmes. The proposals couple the end of the embargo with long-term monitoring of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear veapons programmes.

Washington's initiative would let Iraq sell unlimited amounts of oil, as long as the strict U.N. controls remain to ensure that the proceeds are used to buy food and medicine for the Iraqi people.

Canada has suggested convening two meetings one on disarmament and one on humanitarian aid to assess how to move for-

Along those same lines, U.N. Special Commission, which has inspected Iraq's arms programmes since 1991, was finishing up documents to

assess the status of disarmament, officials said Friday. Included in the documents will be a scenario of how a

monitoring could work if it were implemented now, taking into account the uncertainties about what Iraq may still be hiding, U.N. officials say. Under U.N. resolutions,

the monitoring programme was supposed to have been established once inspectors declared Iraq weapons free. That certification would have also let the council lift the embargo. Chief weapons inspector

Richard Butler has said Iraq still needs to disclose information about its weapons programmes — particularly in the biological field before he can give Baghdad a clean bill of health.

Iraq says it has completely disarmed and accuses the inspectors of working for the United States to prolong

A CLINTON CARNIVAL: Zelia do Carmo, 50, works Friday in a factory making masks depicting the face of Bill Clinton for Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Brazil's week-old decision to let its currency float against the dollar hasn't calmed investor nerves about Latin America's largest economy. Carnival in Rio begins Feb. 14 (AP photo)

## Cyprus leaders snub visiting **British** envoy

NICOSIA (AFP) — Leaders of the Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot communities on divided Cyprus snubbed British envoy Sir David Hannay on Friday by boycotting separate engagements with the diplomat, officials

Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides is refusing to attend a working dinner Friday with Hannay to protest at "unfortunate" comments made by the envoy on his arrival Thursday, government spokesman Christos Stylianides soid.

With this action he [Clerides] wishes to express his disappointment and dislike for certain parts of his statements," he told reporters. In a letter to the British High Commission, Clerides

expressed dismay with Hannay's remarks referring to "tactical advantages and manoeuvres" in comments on a Greek-Cypriot government freeze on arms purchas-

He is also apparently angry over Hannay's comments that Cyprus should not expect any reciprocal acts by Turkey after the cancellation last month of controversial plans by the island's Greek-Cypriot government to deploy Russian ground-to-air mis-

The high commission, which was due to host the dinner, also announced that Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash refused to meet Hannay for a scheduled lun-

cheon. It said Hannay had wanted to hear the views of Clerides and Dentkash on British govemment aims to push for a lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem and on a U.N. resolution calling for a reduction in weapons on the island.

"We regret therefore that neither has taken the opportunity to to give us their views,"

with Greece.

# Senate begins submitting questions in Clinton trial

Senators got a chance to unleash their pent-up questions in President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial on Friday, quizzing his accusers and defenders even as they scrambled to work out the next steps in the trial.

After hearing six days of legal presentations, senators began submitting written queries through Chief Justice William Rehnquist as only the second presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history entered a new and increasingly uncertain phase.

The first questions offered each side a chance for rebuttals, a sore point with House of Representatives prosecutors who were angry they would miss a chance to answer the three-day White House defence presentation th cluded on Thursday.

"Is it the opinion of the House managers that the president's defence team in the presentation mischaracterised any factual or legal issue in this case?" the first question, from four Republican sena-

tors, asked. Prosecutors, who publicly had objected to what they claimed was a distorted and incomplete White House description of their case, not surprisingly found several

examples. "There are a number of mischaracterisations and statements that we disagree with that the president's defence team made," Republican Representative Ed Bryant of Tennessee said.

Outside the chamber. Democrats tried to seize the you have to expect that what is

White House defence arguments, pushing for a quick conclusion to the trial on two articles of impeachment alleging Clinton committed perjury and obstructed justice in the Monica Lewinsky case.

Many Republicans, however, stressed the need to listen to the two days of questions before making any decisions. House prosecutors urged Senate leaders in a letter to invite Clinton to testify, saying his appearance at a deposition

and later the trial could help

bring the proceedings to a quick and fair end. Because the president is the only individual with knowledge of almost every material fact relevant to the trial his testimony could greatly help to expeditiously and fairly er to a close, lead prosecutor Representative Henry Hyde, an Illinois Republican, said in a letter to

> Trent Lott and Democratic leader Tom Daschie. Few senators expressed interest in seeking Clinton's testimony, and scenticism seemed to be growing even among Republicans about the need to prolong the trial by calling any witnesses. But there was no clear con-

Senate Republican leader

sensus on what the next step should be. Lott suggested to reporters there could be another private caucus of the entire Senate early next week to discuss the issue. Daschle said there were no immediate plans to change

the current trial schedule. "Until you hear otherwise,

momentum generated by the currently the agreed upon procedure will be the one we will follow," Daschle

> "At some point Sen. Lott and I will have to sit down or a larger group sit down and see if we can't resolve what might be another alternative. I think it's premature to do that until there is some real indication there is a desire on both sides to find an alternative. That isn't clear to me yet," he said.

> Under the trial procedure unanimously agreed to two weeks ago, the Senate will spend the next two days exploring conflicts in the record that were highlighted by House prosecutors and White House lawyers, submitting written questions to each

On Monday, a Democratic be in order, followed by a motion to subpoena witnesses. House prosecutors and the White House will have to submit lists of potential witnesses.

Daschle said he was increasingly optimistic the motion to dismiss could succeed. If it fails, the 45 Democrats would only have to be joined by six Republicans to reject witnesses and in move directly to consideration of the two articles of impeachment approved by the House on largely party-line

votes last month. Some Democrats have pushed a proposal for an upor-down vote on Monday on whether to remove him from office, but that still appeared unlikely to happen.

The questioning phase was expect to conclude on

## Three Algerian Islamists get eight years after big trial

FLEURY-MEROGIS (AFP) — A French court Friday handed down eightyear jail sentences against the three ringleaders of networks set up in France support hardline Algeria.

Chalabi. Mohammad Kerrouche Mohammad and Mourad Tacine were sentenced to eight years each in jail and banned from ever living in France after serving their terms.

The three Algerians, who went on trial in September in France's biggest terrorist trial, faced up to 10 years for aiding and abetting terrorism. Of the 135 other defen-

dants in the 40-day trial, one of the most controversial ever held in France, 31 people were acquitted and a further 20 cleared of terrorist-related activities.

The defendants were accused of involvement in three French-based networks believed to have

provided one of the toughest terror groups in Algeria, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), with weapons, hideouts, forged papers, medical supplies, clothing and new recruits.

trial held in makeshift courtroom near the Fleury-Merogis prison south of Paris caused heated debate in France about the possibility of meting out justice to 138 people at

By day three of last year's trial almost all the 60-odd lawyers had walked out, followed by most of the defendants, contesting both the conditions and the venue, a prison staff training school gymnasium in the shadow of the jailhouse.

Chalabi, 43, the main defendant in the case, was described as a convicted gangster turned Islamist in the early 1990s. He allegedly recruited fighters for the hardline cause in

For the cash-strapped Russian space agency, the

decision to extend Mir's life

with private funds relieves the

"headache" of trying to sup-

port the station, agency

spokesman Sergei Gorbunov

said, according to the Itar-Tass

The Mir, launched in

February 1986, has operated

far longer than any other space

station. It suffered a series of

serious breakdowns and acci-

dents in 1997, including a

near-fatal collision with a

cargo ship, but has been run-

ning smoothly for more than a

year now. It currently has two

Expected to last just five

years at the time of its launch,

Russian cosmonauts aboard.

news agency.

Identified during the time as being of Algerian citizenship, Chalabi retorted: "No! Muslim, I have nothing to do with the military junta. They are Algerian, I am a Muslim."

Αn people have died in Algeria since armed rebels took up guerrilla warfare after the cancellation of 1992 elections that the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Kerrouche, alias Salim, 38, was arrested in Britain on April 2, 1996 and later handed over to the French authorities.

The prosecution said Chalabi was also running a network to collect arms and medical supplies for Algerian fighters before coming into contact with a network specialised in forging identity papers headed by Tacine.

Tacine, 38, also provided hideouts in France for rebels on the run.

boxing ring. Oleg Yanovets of the Regional Fuel Company in Siberia's Krasnoyarsk region, where Lebed is governor, wants to thrash out their differences at a local boxing tournament on Jan. 30. Both men are former amateur boxers. A scowling Lebed was widely shown on Russian television at a public hearing this week berating the private fuel company's general director, Marat Saitov, in obscene language about the failings of the local coal industry. He could not immediately be reached for his response to the challenge.

#### Strip search after prank call

FARGO (AP) - A caller

claiming to be a police officer talked a male restaurant manager into strip-searching a 17year-old female worker, authorities said. The male caller told the Burger King manager that the worker was a theft suspect, gave a description of her and persuaded the manager to perform the search. After finding no evidence of a theft, the manager became suspicious and tried to trace the call but to no avail. Prank calls were made to several Fargo businesses Wednesday night. Kim Miller, a spokeswoman for Miami-based Burger King, said the company has no regulations on how workers suspected of crimes should be

#### **International hunt** after airline 'loses' granny

LONDON (AFP) — A grandmother flying home from a Christmas visit to relatives became the focus of a trans-continental search when an airline lost track of her en route, according to British press reports Filday. Nancy Brock, 70, left her daughter's home in Mansfield, central England, 10 days ago after spending Christmas and New Year there. Brock ended up flying on four airlines, landed in five countries and spent three nights trying to get home to Zimbabwe after visiting Britain. What should have been an 18-hour flight eventually took her over 80 hours, while her family frantically tried to track her down.

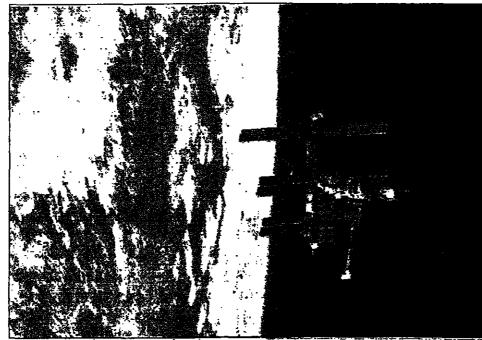
# Russia to keep Mir station in orbit for three more years

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian space officials and cosmonauts sighed with relief Friday when Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov ordered them to extend the lifetime of their beloved, ageing Mir space station for another three

At NASA's urging, Russia had earlier agreed to abandon the nearly 13-year-old Mir in June and concentrate its meagre resources on the new international space station, which has already faced delays because of Russia's

But Primakov's order allows space officials to run Mir through 2002 — on the condition that private investors pay all its expenses. estimated at \$250 million a

The order said unidentified "Russian and foreign contractors and investors" would help set a programme for



The Russian space station Mir is seen in this file photo over the Pacific Ocean during rendezvous operations with the space shuttle Discovery on Feb. 6, 1995 (AP photo)

Mir's extended operation within three months.

The state-controlled RKK Energia, which operates the Mir, said last fall that it had found a private investor who would lend money to keep Mir in orbit on condition the Russian government guaran-

Primakov's order, released Primakov's decision. by the government Friday, didn't mention any loan guarantees, saying only that Mir's lifetime would be extended by using non-government funds. Sergei Krikalov, a Mir veter-

station:

an and member of the first crew for the international

"Mir still can fly, so there is . no reason to discard it if money can be found to keep it in orbit," he told The Associated Press. Private funding of the Mir means "continuing Mir's operation won't hamper Russia's work on the international station," he said.

Mir has proven rugged enough to survive various malfunctions and provided the crews with valuable experience in space repairs. It has also been useful for studying long-term human stints in space, with some crew members staying for more than a year at a time.

The Mir has hosted dozens of foreign astronauts, including seven Americans, who have paid hundreds of millions of dollars for the opportunity - a welcome boost for the are expected to start living on

NASA spokesman Rob Navias said the decision to extend the Mir's life was an internal Russian development. "Energia and the Russian Space Agency continue to affirm that the international

space station and their commitments to supporting it remain their top priority, and none of that has changed or would change under any private sponsorship arrangement that the Russians may have found," he said.

Russians' rancor about plans to abandon Mir also stems from their feeling that without a space station of their own, they will be left playing a secondary role to Americans in

the new project. However, Russia's government has made it clear that it can't afford two separate space stations. Space officials decided to give priority to the 16nation new station, already one year behind schedule because of Russia's failure to build a key segment.

The first two parts were launched in November and December, though no people beleaguered Russian space the station for at least a year.

#### financial troubles. the statement said. U.N.-sponsored talks on a settlement of the island's 25year division were broken off in the summer of 1997. Cyprus has been divided since Turkey occupied its northern third in 1974 following a Greek-Cypriot coup aimed at uniting the island

THANKS TO GOD Genius is only patience. And by that His Majesty King Hussein predominated his calamity.

Farouk Sa'd Abujaber